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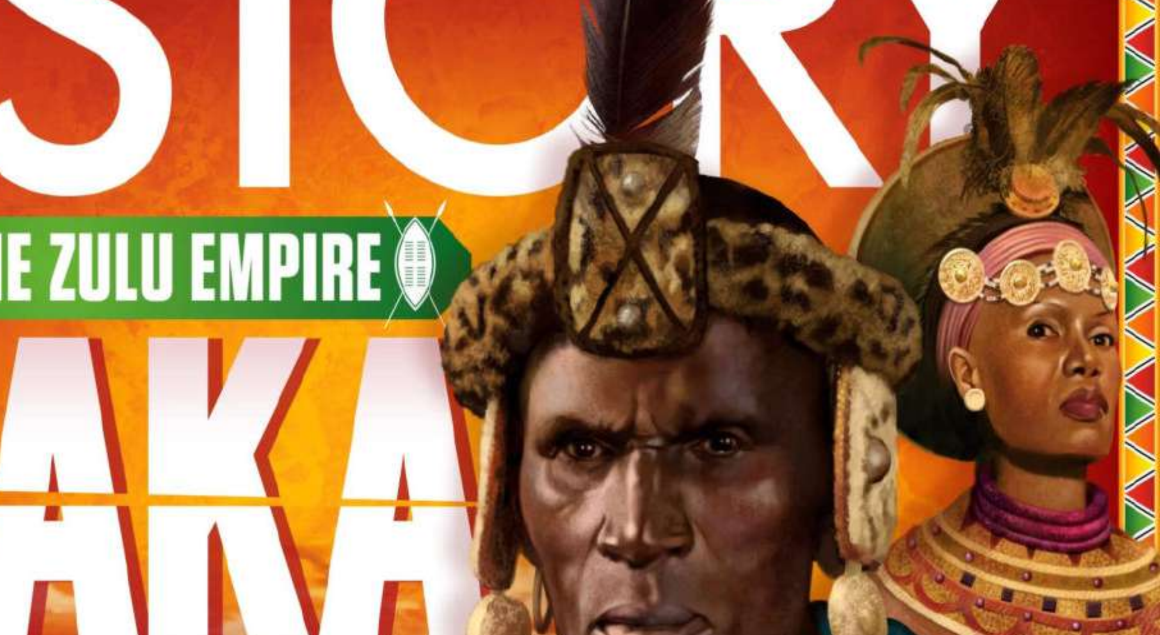

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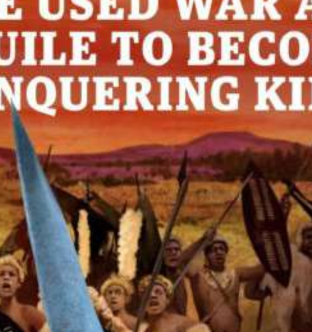

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pack illustration by Roy Cross, 1971.

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Shaka remains a hugely important figure in the history and heritage of South Africa

Welcome

One of the great cliches of history is that it is written by the victors, and that's hard to argue against, as I was reminded of this issue with our look at Shaka, king of the Zulus. The combination of limited written records and the political and social climate of the early 19th century mean that the image you might have in your minds (and the one I had in mine when I began my research) is likely to be very different from the reality. While we must always approach topics with some degree of scepticism and willingness to adjust our inherited thinking, this story placed that necessity in stark relief, as you'll learn when reading our lead feature for yourself.

Elsewhere there are no less complex tales to examine, such as the life of one of Europe's first female authors Christine de Pizan, the legacy of Aztec culture for Mexico, some of the pioneering political figures of America, life in Nazi occupied Rome and 20 of the greatest hoaxes in history. We've really spanned the globe, and that's before we even get into our All About section on the Celts and the Battle of Sekigahara in Japan. Even if we can't travel far in reality right now, time and space need not be boundaries in these pages.

And, of course, we have more free digital ebooks for you looking at Julius Caesar, the history of the United States and kings and queens of the world. Hopefully that'll keep you entertained until our next issue. Enjoy.

Jonathan Gordon
Editor

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Shaka

How an exile used war and political guile to become Africa's conquering king

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Defining Moments

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8 September 1966

STAR TREK PREMIERES

On this day, the first episode of American science fiction series *Star Trek*, titled *The Man Trap*, premiered on NBC starring Leonard Nimoy (far left) as Mr Spock and William Shatner (left) as Captain Kirk. Although it was cancelled after only three seasons, *Star Trek* became a cultural phenomenon, spawning numerous television spin-off series and films.

15 August 1947

INDIA DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

On the eve of Indian independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, delivered his landmark *Tryst With Destiny* speech to the Indian Constituent Assembly. Overseen by Lord Mountbatten, the last viceroy of British India, the country was officially declared independent from British rule at midnight after decades of campaigning, with British India partitioned into two self-governing countries – India and Pakistan.

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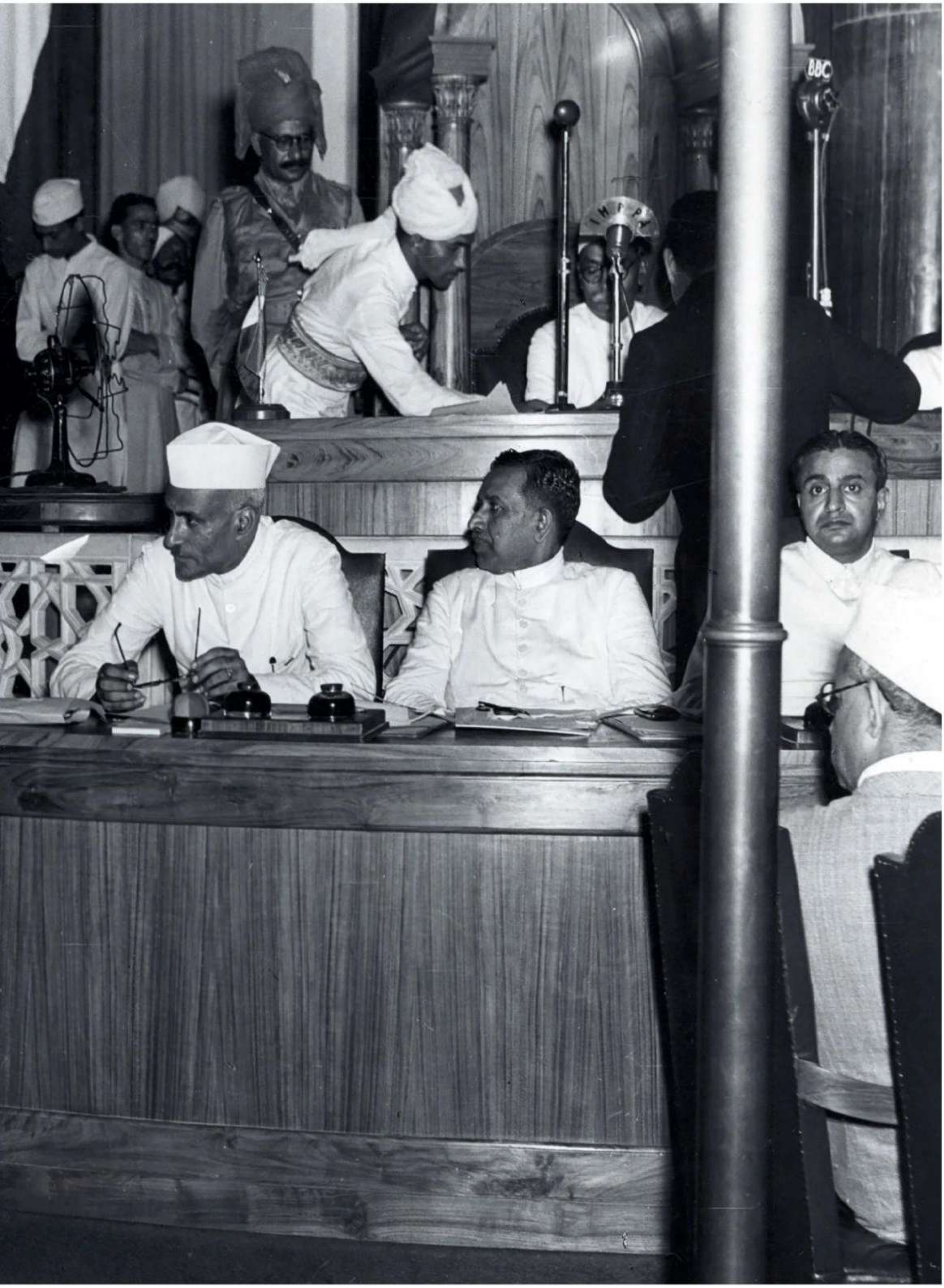

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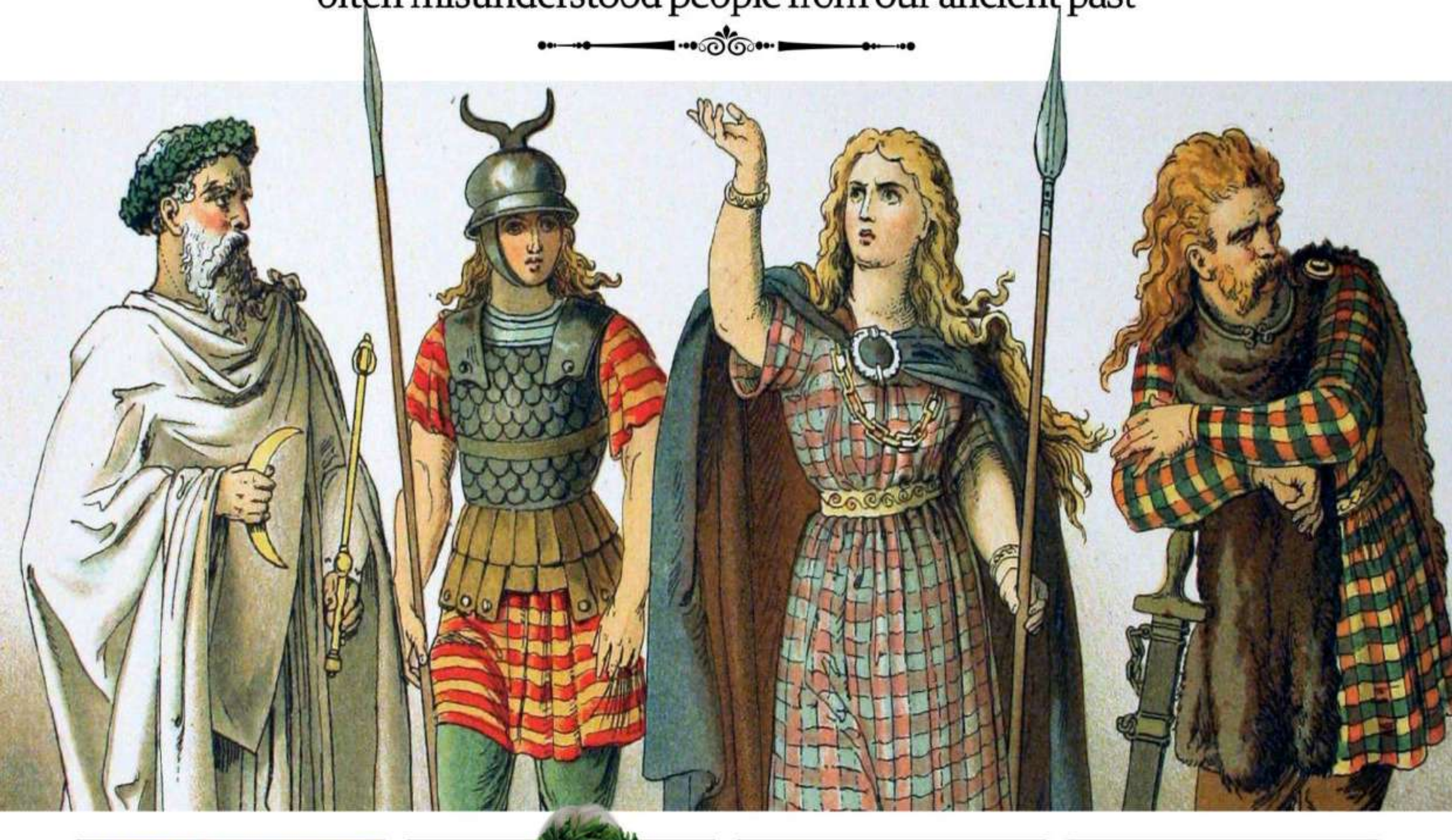
ALL ABOUT

THE CELTS

We reveal the complex and pan-continental origins of this often misunderstood people from our ancient past



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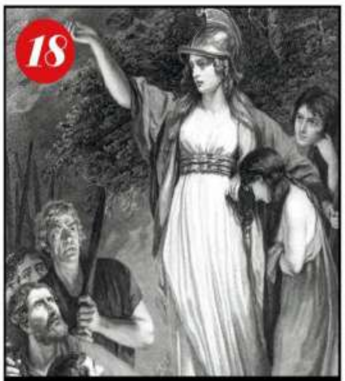

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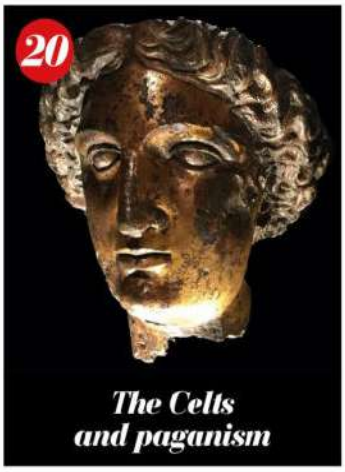

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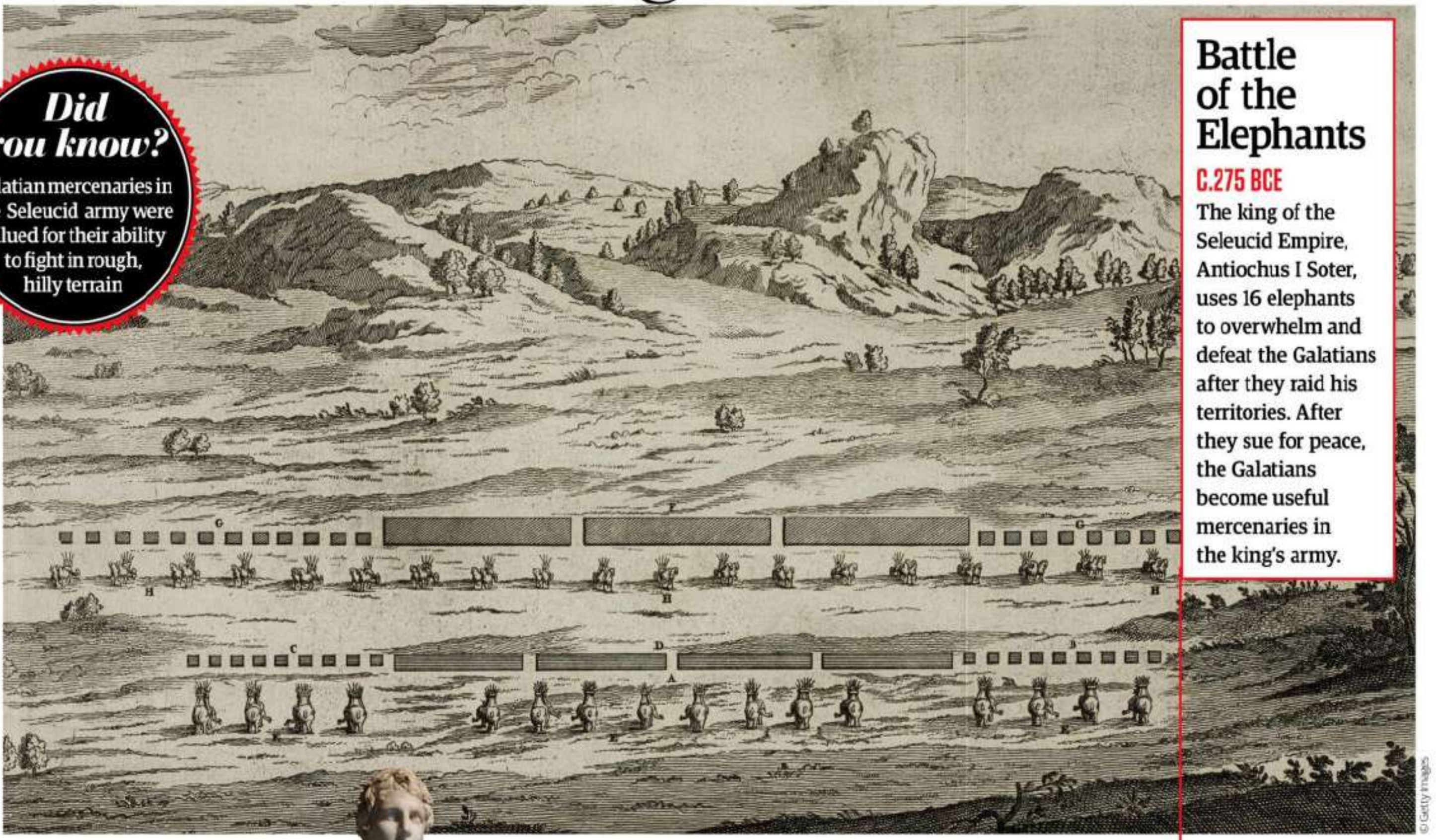
Written by Jessica Leggett, Callum McKelvie, Jonathan Gordon

Celts through time

Did you know?

Galatian mercenaries in the Seleucid army were valued for their ability to fight in rough, hilly terrain



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Battle of the Elephants

C.275 BCE

The king of the Seleucid Empire, Antiochus I Soter, uses 16 elephants to overwhelm and defeat the Galatians after they raid his territories. After they sue for peace, the Galatians become useful mercenaries in the king's army.

BEGINNINGS OF THE CELTS
1300-1200 BCE

The proto-Celtic Urnfield culture, a cultural period centred around Urnfield cremation sites, emerges in Central Europe in the late Bronze Age.

MAKING ALLIANCES
335 BCE

Celtic ambassadors meet Alexander the Great at the River Danube in the Balkans and negotiate a treaty, providing him with troops for his wars.

Image source: wiki/Tkbwikmed

INVASION OF GREECE
279 BCE

The Celts beat the Greeks at the Battle of Thermopylae but their attack on Delphi fails. Nonetheless, they establish the Celtic kingdom of Galatia in Anatolia.

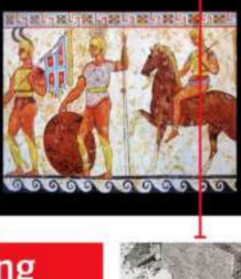
Image source: wiki/Calniuc

=1300 BCE= =C.800 BCE= =335 BCE=

IRON-WORKING IN EUROPE
C.800 BCE

Hallstatt culture, an early Iron Age culture named after an Austrian town, begins in central Europe. At the same time, the Iron Age starts in Britain.

Image source: wiki/Joanbanjo



BATTLE OF SENTINUM
295 BCE

The Romans defeat the combined force of the Celts and Samnites in this crucial battle of the Third Samnite War, fought between the Roman Republic and Carthage.

Image source: wiki/National Archaeology Museum of Naples

THE FIRST PUNIC WAR
264-241 BCE

Around 3,000 Celtic mercenaries join Carthage in their fight against the Romans for control over Sicily. The war lasts for over two decades.

Image source: wiki/Jastrow

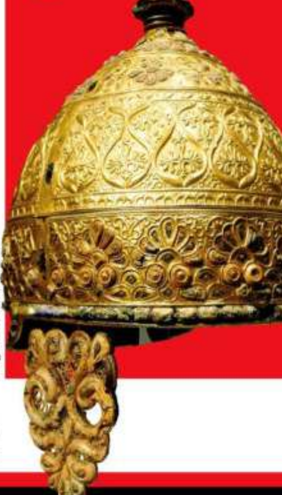
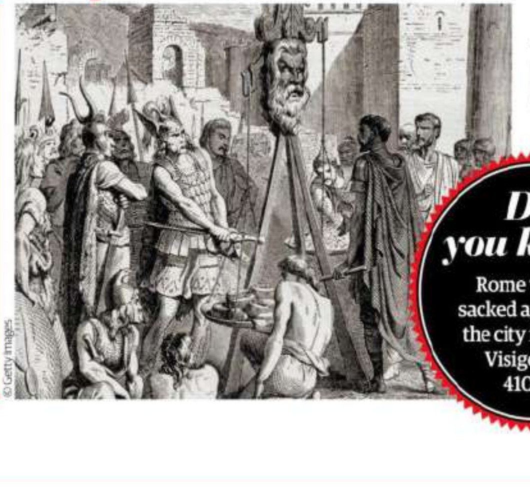


Image source: wiki/Rosemania

Changing culture

C.450 BCE

La Tene culture develops from Hallstatt style, incorporating Etruscan and Greek influences, spreading rapidly as the Celts expand their presence through Europe and the British Isles.



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A glorious victory

C.391-385 BCE

The Senones, a Celtic tribe led by the chieftain Brennus, besiege the Etruscan city of Clusium. The tribe defeats the Romans in a battle at the River Allia and they subsequently sack Rome, holding the city for ransom.

Did you know?

Rome was not sacked again until the city fell to the Visigoths in 410CE.

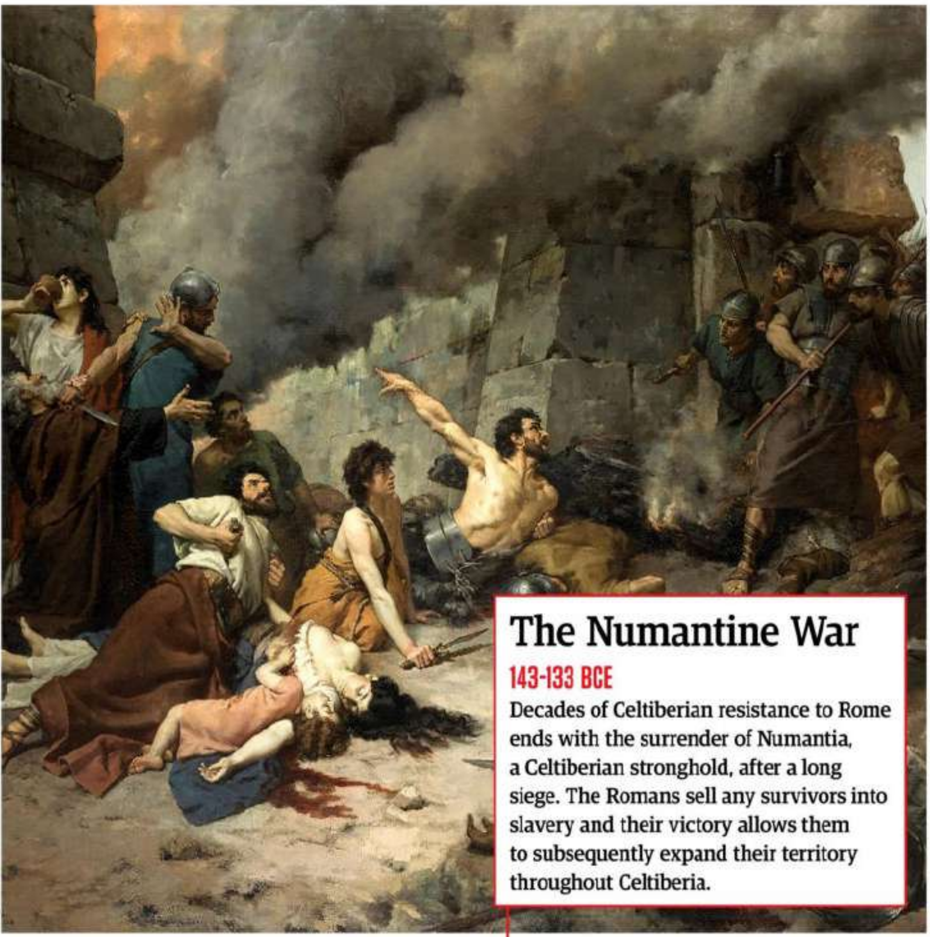
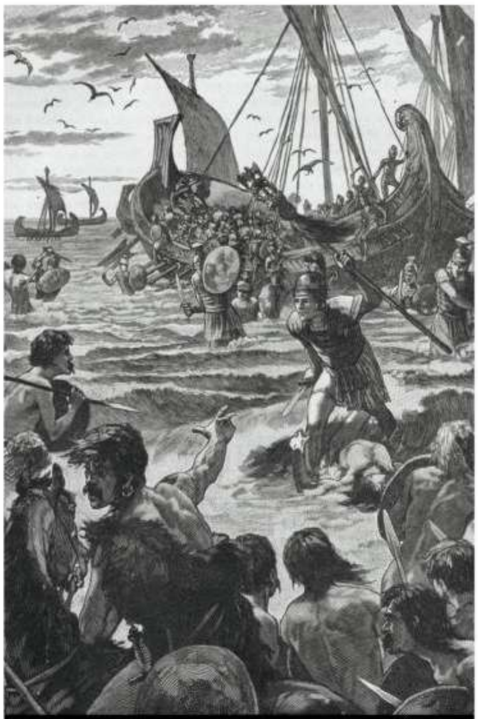


Image source: wiki/Museo del Prado

The Numantine War

143-133 BCE

Decades of Celtiberian resistance to Rome ends with the surrender of Numantia, a Celtiberian stronghold, after a long siege. The Romans sell any survivors into slavery and their victory allows them to subsequently expand their territory throughout Celtiberia.



Invasion of Britain 43 CE

Roman Emperor Claudius successfully invades and conquers Britain, with 40,000 heavily armed Roman soldiers landing on the coast of Kent. In doing so, he finally achieves what Caesar had failed to do almost a century earlier.

© Getty Images

SECOND PUNIC WAR

C.218-217 BCE

Carthaginian general Hannibal allies with the Celts and invades Italy. Celtic mercenaries, including a heavily armed cavalry, make up just over half of his entire army.

Image source: wiki/Dauphinois Museum

A BRUTAL BETRAYAL

51 CE

British resistance leader Caratacus is captured and sent to Rome after being handed over to the Romans by Cartimandua, a fellow Celt and queen of the Brigantes.

Image source: wiki/British Museum

A NEW FAITH

C.432 CE

Christian missionary and bishop St Patrick arrives in Celtic Ireland. He does not introduce Christianity to the country but he helps to spread it.

C. 218 BCE

58 BCE

43 CE

122 CE

A DECISIVE DEFEAT

C.191 BCE

The Romans complete their conquest of the Boii, a Celtic tribe, who suffer heavy losses. A Roman triumph parade is held to celebrate the victory.

GALATIA CONQUERED

189 BCE

The Celts in Galatia lose a battle against the Romans on Mount Olympus, Asia Minor. They sue for peace and Galatia subsequently becomes a client state of Rome.

Image source: wiki/antmoose

BOUDICCA'S REBELLION

60 CE

The queen of the Iceni launches a major revolt against the Romans. It is initially successful but the Romans crush her army at the Battle of Watling Street.

Image source: wiki/Joseph Martin Kronheim

Caesar wages war

58-51 BCE

Caesar launches a series of military campaigns in Gaul known as the Gallic Wars, successfully conquering the region after winning the Battle of Alesia. During this time, Caesar also campaigns in Germany and invades Britain twice.

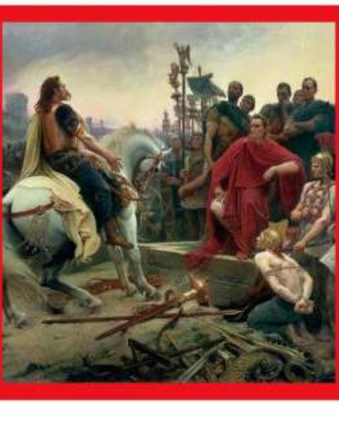
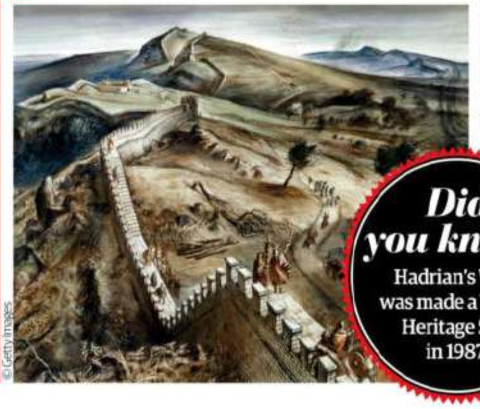


Image source: wiki/Crozatier



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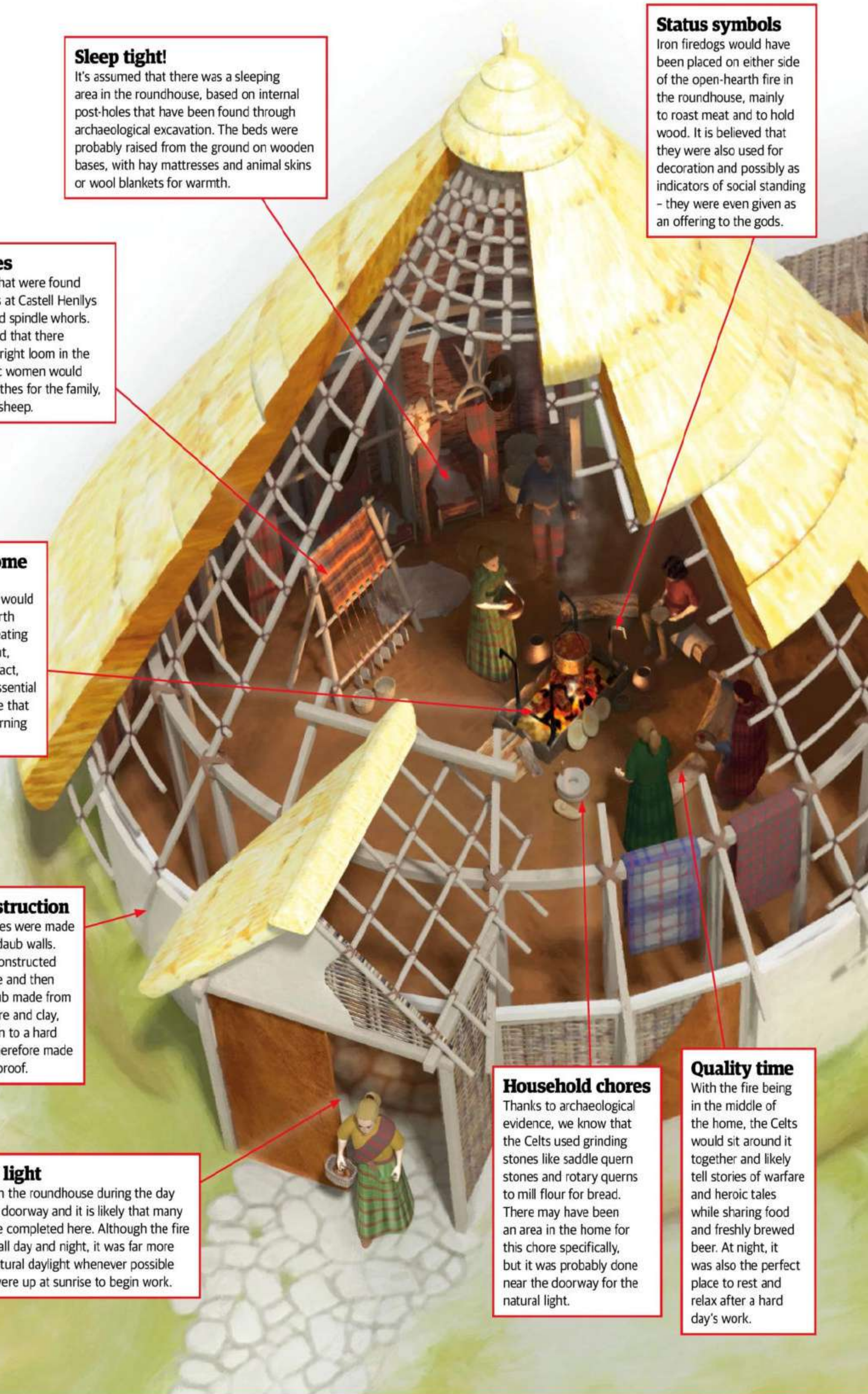
Building defences

122 CE

Emperor Hadrian visits Britain and orders the construction of Hadrian's Wall along the northern border to protect Roman settlers from the Celts who had fled and settled North. The wall remains as the north-west frontier of the empire for almost three centuries.

Did you know?

Hadrian's Wall was made a World Heritage Site in 1987



Sleep tight!

It's assumed that there was a sleeping area in the roundhouse, based on internal post-holes that have been found through archaeological excavation. The beds were probably raised from the ground on wooden bases, with hay mattresses and animal skins or wool blankets for warmth.

Status symbols

Iron firedogs would have been placed on either side of the open-hearth fire in the roundhouse, mainly to roast meat and to hold wood. It is believed that they were also used for decoration and possibly as indicators of social standing – they were even given as an offering to the gods.

Domestic duties

Among the artefacts that were found during the excavations at Castell Henllys were loom weights and spindle whorls. As a result, it's believed that there must have been an upright loom in the roundhouse that Celtic women would have used to make clothes for the family, using wool from their sheep.

Heart of the home

At the centre of the roundhouse, the Celts would have had an open-hearth fire for cooking and heating as well as for extra light, especially at night. In fact, the fire was such an essential part of the Celtic home that it was actually kept burning 24 hours a day.

Clever construction

Celtic roundhouses were made with wattle and daub walls. The walls were constructed first out of wattle and then covered with daub made from straw, soil, manure and clay, which dried down to a hard substance and therefore made the house waterproof.

Chasing the light

Most of the light in the roundhouse during the day came through the doorway and it is likely that many of the chores were completed here. Although the fire was kept burning all day and night, it was far more practical to use natural daylight whenever possible and so the Celts were up at sunrise to begin work.

Household chores

Thanks to archaeological evidence, we know that the Celts used grinding stones like saddle quern stones and rotary querns to mill flour for bread. There may have been an area in the home for this chore specifically, but it was probably done near the doorway for the natural light.

Quality time

With the fire being in the middle of the home, the Celts would sit around it together and likely tell stories of warfare and heroic tales while sharing food and freshly brewed beer. At night, it was also the perfect place to rest and relax after a hard day's work.

Illustration by: Adrian Mann

INSIDE HISTORY

A CELTIC ROUNDHOUSE

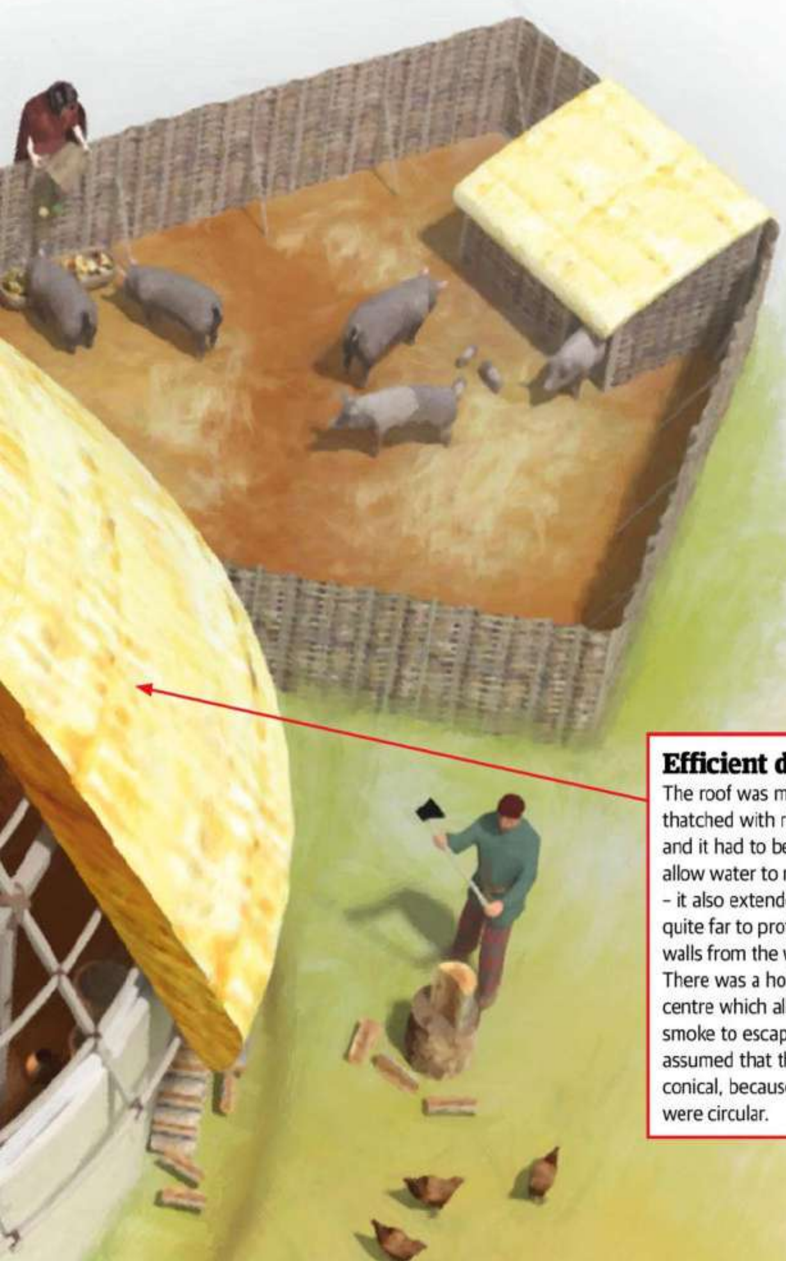
EUROPE, C.800-50 BCE

The Celts lived in fortified settlements surrounded by banks and ditches known as hillforts. As the name would suggest, these hillforts were usually built on high ground but many of them have also been located on low-lying land. While these hillforts can be found across Europe, there are over 4,000 of them across Britain and Ireland alone. Iron Age Britain was a violent place to live and hillforts were easier to defend, although there has generally been little evidence to prove there was fighting at the hillforts that have been excavated so far.

The large communities and extended families who lived in hillforts had simple homes called roundhouses, which only had one room. Thanks to archaeological excavations of hillforts over the years, we have some understanding of what roundhouses looked like in the Iron Age. However, a lack of conclusive evidence also means there are many aspects of a roundhouse, such as the inside, that we can only speculate about.

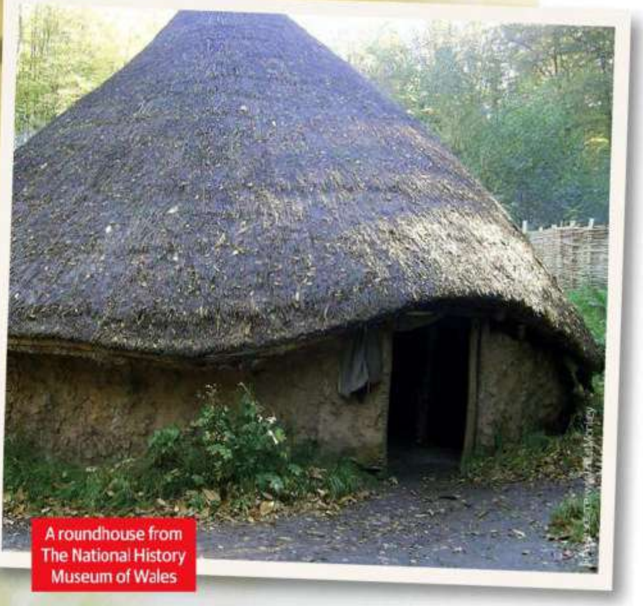
The most famous hillfort in Britain is Castell Henllys in Wales, which was once home to the Demetae tribe. For over 20 years, archaeologists have been excavating the site and have discovered everyday items such as glass beads, charcoal, pieces of pottery and even carbonized bone, giving us an insight into ordinary Celtic life that revolved around farming and agriculture.

Based on archaeological evidence, three roundhouses - including one that was thought to have belonged to the tribe chieftain - as well as a blacksmith's and a grain store have been reconstructed at Castell Henllys, just as they would have stood 2,000 years ago. The first one to be rebuilt, known as the 'Old Roundhouse', was excavated in 1981 and reconstructed the following year, with a staggering diameter of 10 metres. Today, it remains the longest-standing roundhouse reconstruction in Britain.



Efficient design
The roof was most likely thatched with river reed and it had to be steep to allow water to run down - it also extended out quite far to protect the walls from the weather. There was a hole at the centre which allowed the smoke to escape and it is assumed that the roof was conical, because the walls were circular.

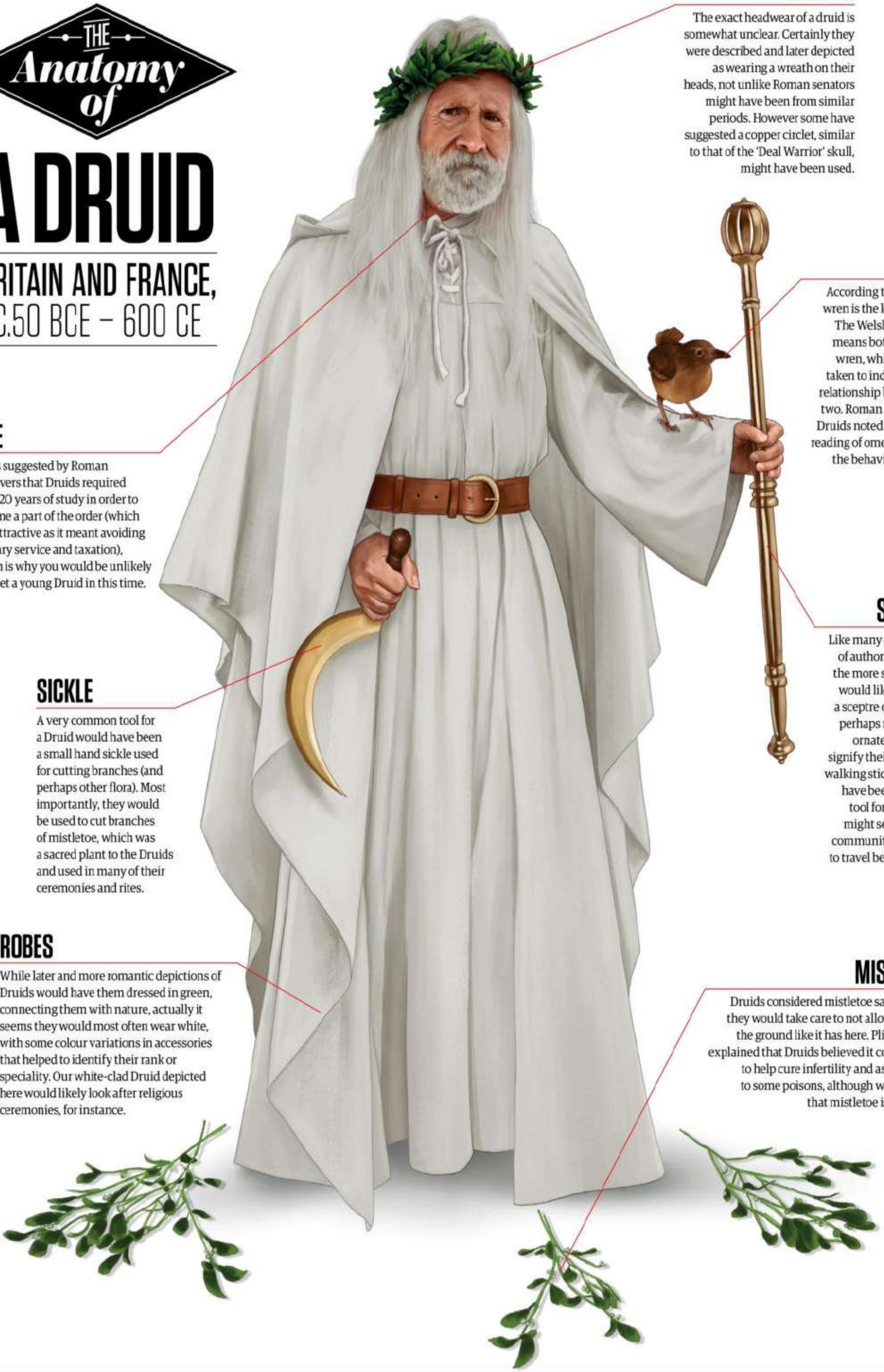
Water drainage
A drip gully was formed around the roundhouse by rainwater dripping from the end of the roof, which eventually created a trench - sometimes the drip gully was dug out deliberately to allow water to drain away from the house. These gullies have given archaeologists an idea of how far the roof must have extended out.



A roundhouse from The National History Museum of Wales

THE *Anatomy of* A DRUID

BRITAIN AND FRANCE, C.50 BCE – 600 CE



WREATH

The exact headwear of a druid is somewhat unclear. Certainly they were described and later depicted as wearing a wreath on their heads, not unlike Roman senators might have been from similar periods. However some have suggested a copper circlet, similar to that of the 'Deal Warrior' skull, might have been used.

BIRDS

According to legend the wren is the king of birds. The Welsh word dryw means both Druid and wren, which has been taken to indicate a close relationship between the two. Roman observers of Druids noted the possible reading of omens based on the behaviour of birds.

AGE

It was suggested by Roman observers that Druids required up to 20 years of study in order to become a part of the order (which was attractive as it meant avoiding military service and taxation), which is why you would be unlikely to meet a young Druid in this time.

SCEPTRE

Like many other figures of authority of this era the more senior Druids would likely have had a sceptre of some kind, perhaps not even that ornate in design, to signify their seniority. A walking stick would also have been a common tool for Druids, who might serve multiple communities and need to travel between them.

SICKLE

A very common tool for a Druid would have been a small hand sickle used for cutting branches (and perhaps other flora). Most importantly, they would be used to cut branches of mistletoe, which was a sacred plant to the Druids and used in many of their ceremonies and rites.

ROBES

While later and more romantic depictions of Druids would have them dressed in green, connecting them with nature, actually it seems they would most often wear white, with some colour variations in accessories that helped to identify their rank or speciality. Our white-clad Druid depicted here would likely look after religious ceremonies, for instance.

MISTLETOE

Druids considered mistletoe sacred. In fact, they would take care to not allow it to touch the ground like it has here. Pliny the Elder explained that Druids believed it could be used to help cure infertility and as an antidote to some poisons, although we know now that mistletoe is itself toxic.

Illustration by: Kevin McGivern

Historical Treasures

THE BATTERSEA SHIELD

BRITAIN'S MOST SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF CELTIC ART, BRITAIN, C.350-50 BCE

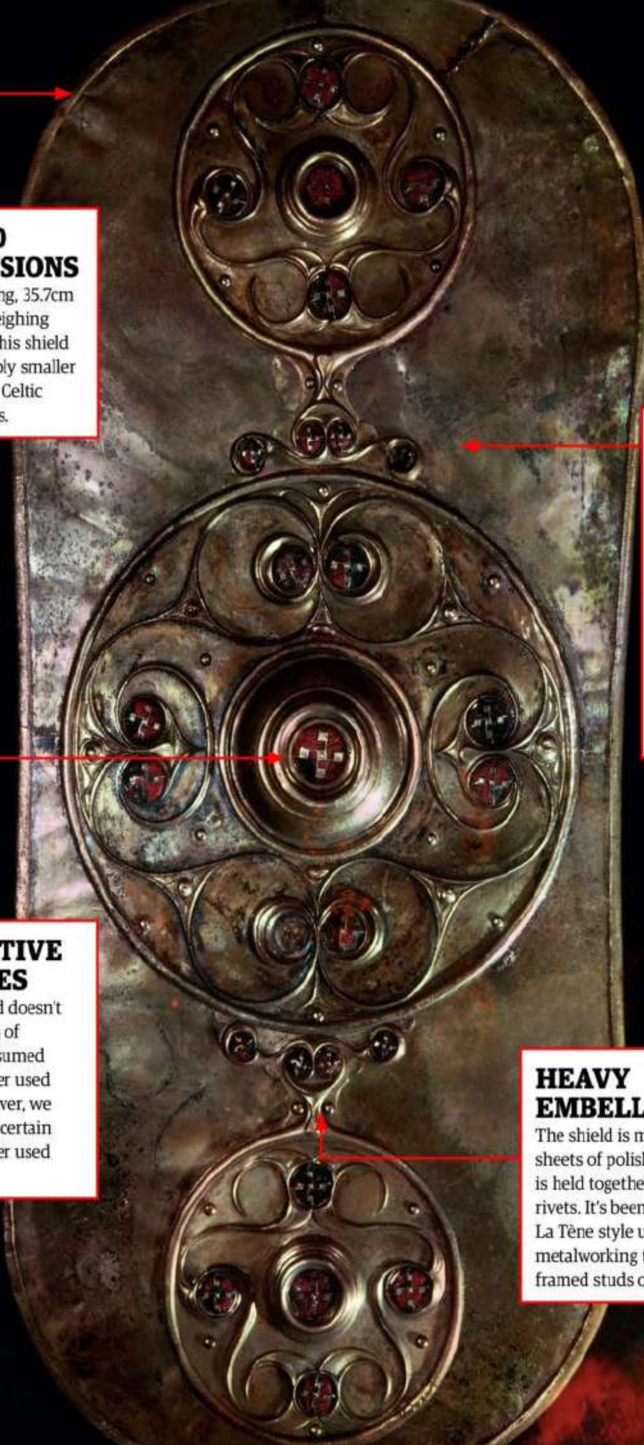
Archeological evidence indicates that during the Iron Age Celtic warriors were prestigious, high-status members of that society. Many of them were buried with elaborately decorated weapons, horses and even chariots, presumably for ceremonial or religious reasons. As a result, the majority of shields are often discovered in burial sites.

Celtic shields were usually made of wood such as oak and covered in leather. It's thought that shields were generally lightweight, to make them more comfortable for the warriors to hold and carry. Typically, shields were oval in shape but they could also be circular, rectangular or even hexagonal. The differences in shape and size can be seen geographically, as shields from Northern Europe are usually long and flat while those found in the Mediterranean tend to be shorter and rounder.

Either way, the shields were usually long enough - around 1.1m - to protect the majority of the body, although the Celts in Britain tended to use smaller shields than those based on the Continent. Shields also featured a round boss or umbo, which was designed to protect the hand holding the handgrip on the inside.

Iron Age weapons and armour were often highly ornate and La Tène, a distinctive decorative style that uses intricate spirals and curves, was frequently used on metalwork. This elaborate type of decoration has been found on surviving swords, spearheads, helmets, jewellery and, of course, many shields. Bronze decorative facings were often placed on shields but they could be easily damaged and were not suitable for warfare - they provided very little protection if they were not used with a wooden shield underneath.

While British Celtic shields have been discovered in areas such as Lincolnshire and Surrey, arguably the most famous and important one to be unearthed is the Battersea Shield. It was excavated from the River Thames in 1857 and named after Battersea Bridge, which stands at the location where the shield was found. The Celts threw many weapons like swords and shields into rivers as votive offerings to their gods, with many of them thrown into the Thames. The Battersea Shield is currently on display at the British Museum.



SHIELD DIMENSIONS
At 77.7cm long, 35.7cm wide and weighing only 3.4kg, this shield is considerably smaller than typical Celtic battle shields.

BRONZE COVER
The Battersea Shield is actually a metal facing rather than a complete shield. It would have been originally attached to the front of a wooden shield but, unfortunately, this has been lost.

DECORATIVE PURPOSES
Since the shield doesn't show any signs of damage, it's assumed that it was never used in battle. However, we don't know for certain that it was never used in warfare.

HEAVY EMBELLISHMENT
The shield is made with several sheets of polished bronze and is held together with bronze rivets. It's been decorated in the La Tène style using the repoussé metalworking technique and 27 framed studs of red glass enamel.

© Getty Images

Hall of Fame

CELTIC LEADERS

Ten fascinating figures of whom you may - or may not - have heard

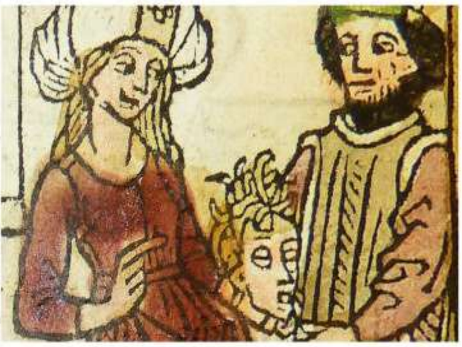


Image source: wiki/Provenance Online Project

CHIOMARA 2ND CENTURY BCE

A Galatian (a Celtic people) noblewoman and the wife of the chieftain of the Tectosagi, Chiomara's tribe fought the Romans during the Galatian War. According to philosopher Plutarch, she was captured and raped by a Roman centurion, who then demanded a ransom for her. When her tribesmen arrived to pay it, she nodded at them to attack him and they beheaded the centurion, with Chiomara bringing the head home and throwing it down in front of her husband.

Boudicca's army attacked the Roman city of Camulodunum before burning both Londinium and Verulamium to the ground

CARTIMANDUA

1ST CENTURY CE

As queen of the Brigantes, who were based in northern Britain, Cartimunda was an ally of the Romans. However, anti-Roman sentiment amongst her people grew after she decided to hand over Caratacus, the leader of the Welsh resistance, to the Romans when he sought sanctuary from her in 51 CE. Cartimandua's situation worsened when she divorced her husband, Venutius, in 57 CE and he retaliated by launching a rebellion against her. In the ensuing civil war, Rome intervened in support of the queen but Venutius eventually seized the crown in 69 CE, causing Cartimandua to flee to the Roman fort of Deva.

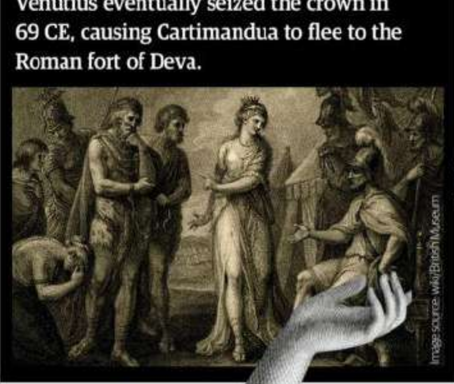


Image source: wiki/British Museum

Ambiorix is a national hero in Belgium, and a statue of him was erected in Tongeren in 1866

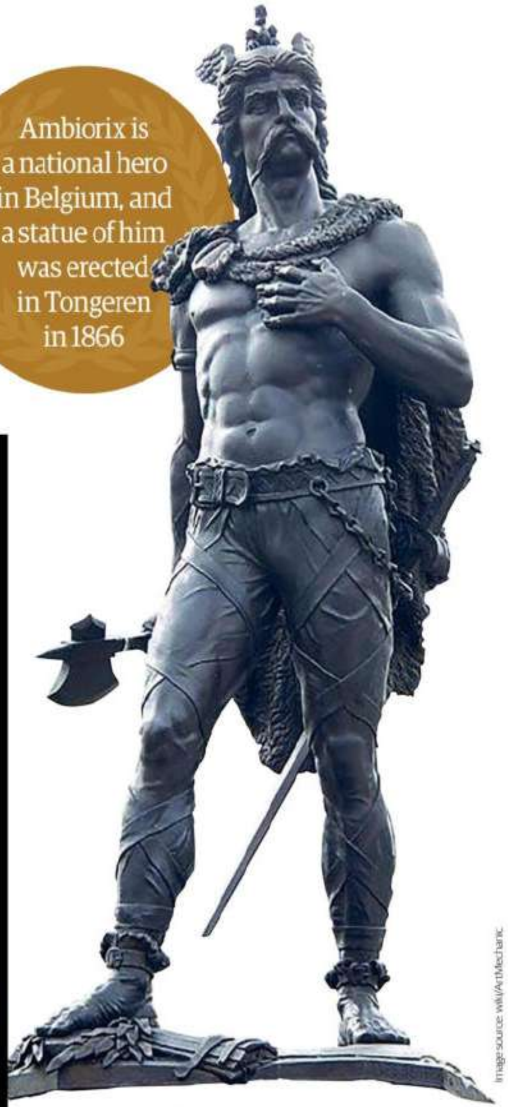
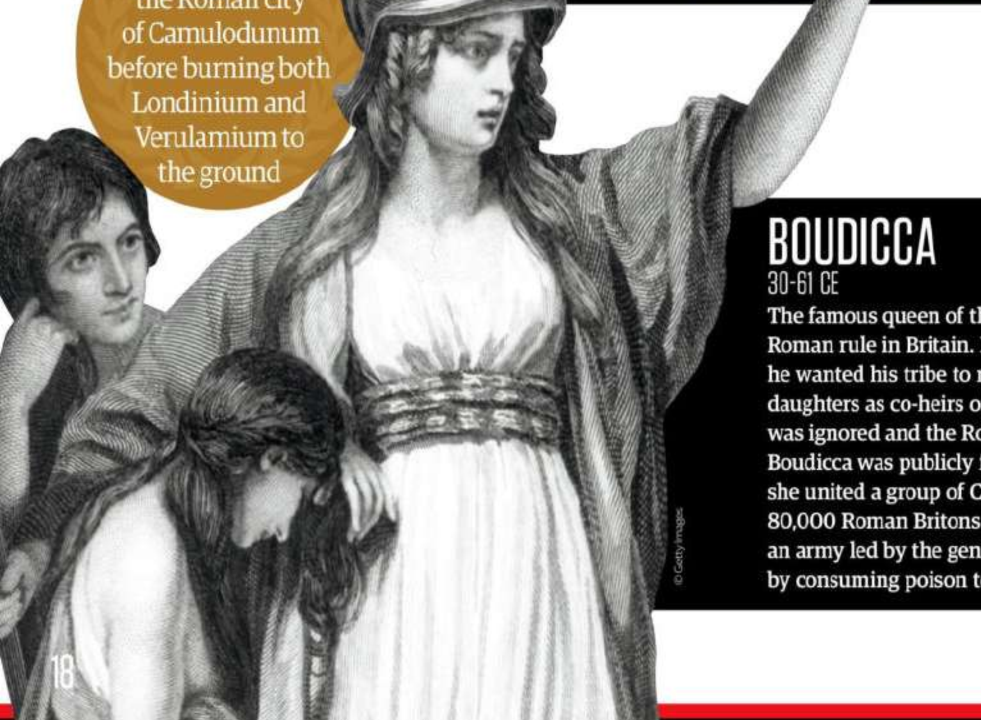


Image source: wiki/ArtMechanic

AMBIORIX 1ST CENTURY BCE

Ambiorix was a chief of the Eburones, a Gallic tribe, ruling half of its territory while the other half was governed by the other chief, Cativolcus. Ambiorix revolted against Julius Caesar in 54 BCE and destroyed the army of Titurius Sabinus, one of Caesar's legates, at Atuatuca. He formed an alliance with the Nervii tribe who then besieged the Roman forces staying in their territory for the winter, before Caesar arrived with troops. Ambiorix evaded capture and continued to resist the Romans.



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BOUDICCA

30-61 CE

The famous queen of the Iceni tribe in Norfolk, Boudicca nearly ended Roman rule in Britain. Her husband, Prasutagus, was an ally of Rome but he wanted his tribe to remain independent after his death, naming his two daughters as co-heirs of his kingdom alongside Emperor Nero. However, this was ignored and the Romans raided the Iceni's territory - in the process, Boudicca was publicly flogged and her daughters were raped. Incensed, she united a group of Celtic tribes and led a revolt in 60 CE, killing around 80,000 Roman Britons in the process. Boudicca was eventually defeated by an army led by the general Paulinus, and it's believed she committed suicide by consuming poison to avoid capture.

VIRIATHUS
C.180-C.140 BCE

Viriathus was a Celtiberian and the leader of the Lusitani, who lived in modern-day Spain and Portugal. He escaped the massacre and enslavement of his people at the hands of the Romans, leading a resistance that not only secured several victories, but slaughtered thousands of Roman soldiers. Although he eventually entered peace negotiations, Viriathus was betrayed and killed by three friends who had been bribed by the Romans. Today, Viriathus is seen as a national hero of Portugal.

TERROR
ROMANOR

Image source: wiki/Eduardo Barrón

Image source: wiki/Museum of Fine Arts of Lyon

VERCINGETORIX 1ST CENTURY BCE

Vercingetorix was the chieftain of the Gallic Arverni tribe, who fought Julius Caesar when he invaded Gaul. He was angered after the Gallic Eburone tribe was massacred by the Romans and after becoming leader of his tribe in 52 BCE, Vercingetorix united other Gallic tribes to launch a revolt. With his new allies, he led a series of campaigns against the Romans and won the Battle of Gergovia, forcing Roman legions to withdraw. However, Vercingetorix was later besieged by Caesar at the Gallic stronghold of Alesia and he had no choice but to surrender, leading to his imprisonment and eventual execution in Rome.

CASSIVELLAUNUS 1ST CENTURY CE

It is assumed that Cassivellaunus was the chieftain of the Catuvellauni tribe, because his territory was located to the north of the River Thames. He refused to send tribute to Julius Caesar and instead led the native resistance to Caesar's second invasion of Britain in 54 BCE. Cassivellaunus was defeated after five British tribes surrendered and revealed the location of his stronghold to the Romans, forcing him to give up and sue for peace.

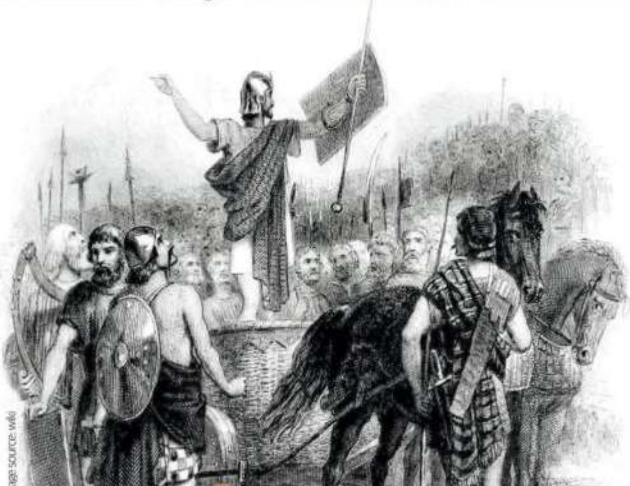


Image source: wiki

CALGACUS
1ST CENTURY CE

Calgacus was a chieftain in Caledonia who led the fight against the Romans at the Battle of Mons Graupius in 84 CE at Agricola, which is located in northern Scotland. His men were defeated, which consequently ended the resistance to Rome in that area for around the next two decades. We know about Calgacus thanks to Tacitus, who claimed that the chieftain had given an inspiring speech about freedom before the battle.

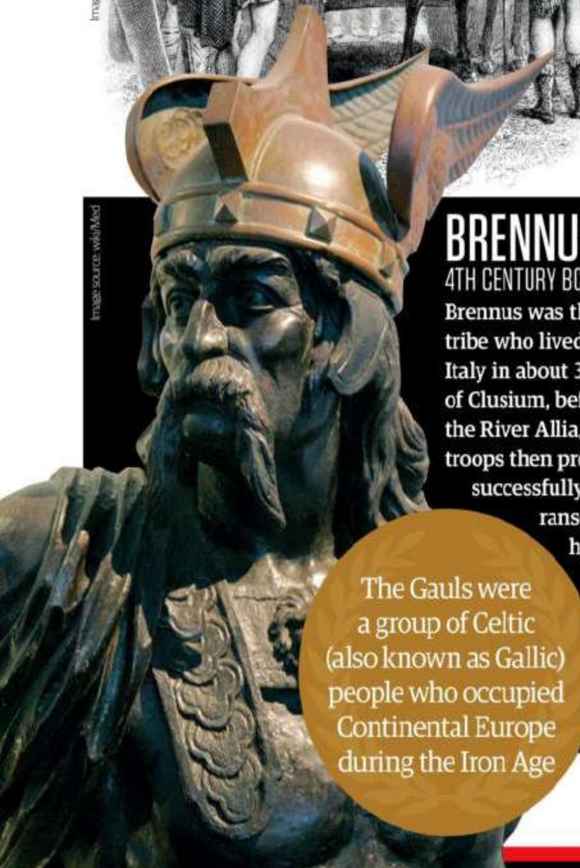
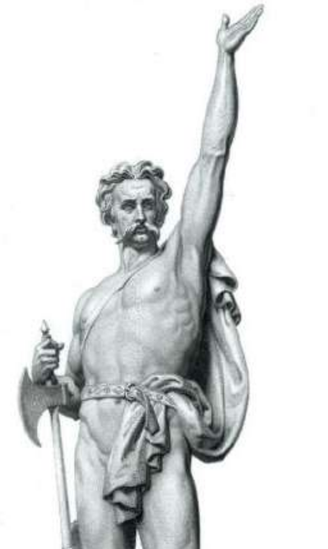


Image source: wiki/Med

BRENNUS
4TH CENTURY BCE

Brennus was the chief of the Senones, a Gallic tribe who lived in Gaul. With his army, he invaded Italy in about 385 BCE and laid siege to the city of Clusium, before he defeated the Romans at the River Allia, located just outside of Rome. His troops then proceeded to Rome itself and they successfully captured the city, holding it to ransom. Brennus has gone down in history for supposedly using the phrase 'woe to the conquered' when Rome delivered the ransom of gold - it was later claimed that his army was subsequently defeated by Camillus before they could leave the city.

The Gauls were a group of Celtic (also known as Gallic) people who occupied Continental Europe during the Iron Age



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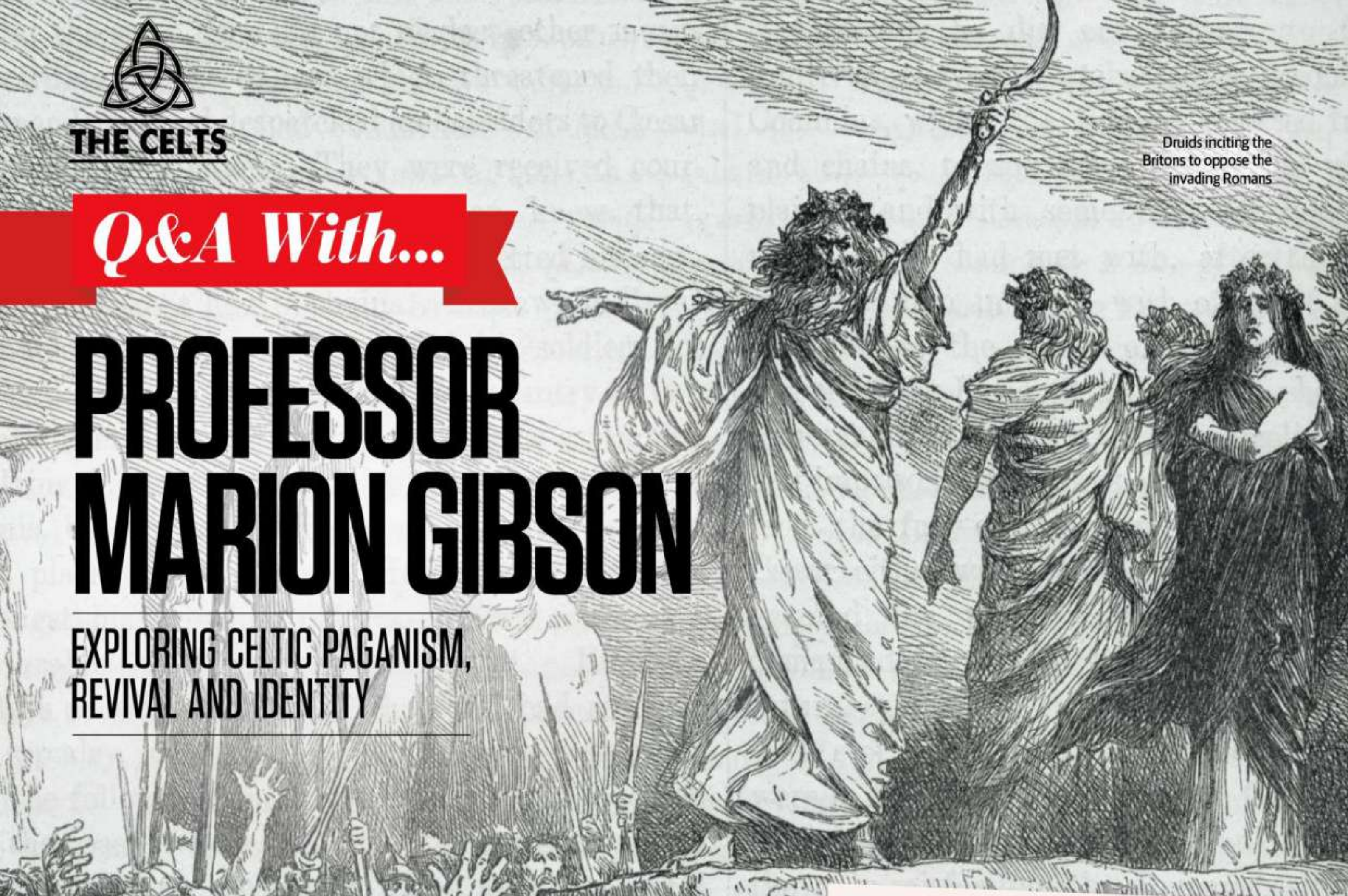
CARATACUS 15-C.54 CE

Along with his brother, Togodumnus, Caratacus led the resistance against the Roman invasion of Britain in 43 CE. After his brother was killed and he was defeated in battles at Medway and the River Thames, Caratacus fled to Wales to seek support there. His weakened tribe was finally beaten in 50 CE by an army led by Ostorius Scapula, who captured Caratacus's wife, brothers and daughter. Caratacus managed to escape and seek safety from Cartimandua, who betrayed him and handed him over to the Romans. Caratacus was sent to Rome and lived the remainder of his days in exile after he successfully appealed to the emperor to spare his life.

Q&A With...

PROFESSOR MARION GIBSON

EXPLORING CELTIC PAGANISM, REVIVAL AND IDENTITY

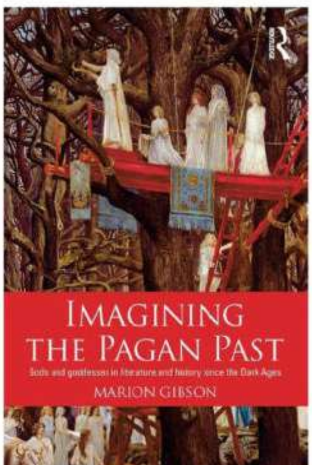


Druids inciting the Britons to oppose the invading Romans

Professor Marion Gibson is an author and professor of Renaissance and Magical Literatures at the University of Exeter. She has written and co-edited numerous books, including *Rediscovering Renaissance Witchcraft*, *Witchcraft Myths In American Culture* and *Mysticism, Myth And Celtic Identity*.

Q FIRSTLY, COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT CELTIC PAGANISM IS?

A My definition of Celtic paganism is: the religion or religions that were practiced in Britain and neighbouring Celtic areas during prehistory and up to the time when Christianity arrived in Western Europe in around 500-800 CE. That's a very broad definition, because it's not wholly clear who the Celts were and it's also not wholly clear what their religions were. 'Celtic' usually refers to the culture of the people who lived all over the British Isles and in neighbouring parts of Europe before they were joined and pushed back by migrations of 'Viking' and 'Anglo-Saxon' groups coming from Scandinavia and northern Germany. But this is a contested history probably involving assimilation and religious synthesis. There wasn't a homogenous racial and cultural group called 'Celts' and they didn't have a unified religion, so knowledge is very localised and definitions vary.


IMAGINING THE PAGAN PAST
Gods and goddesses in literature and history since the Dark Ages
MARION GIBSON

Imagining The Pagan Past: Gods And Goddesses In Literature And History Since The Dark Ages **is out now from Routledge**

Q WHAT SOURCES CAN WE USE TO LEARN ABOUT THE CELTS AND THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS? DO THESE SOURCES PRESENT ANY DIFFICULTIES?

A The best evidence of their beliefs is in altars and inscriptions left by literate people in Celtic areas in later times. They mention goddesses such as the water deities Coventina (Northumbria), Arnemetia (Buxton) and Sulis (Somerset), all associated with springs, and gods called Cocidius (Northumbria) and Condatis (Tyne and Wear) who look like warlike figures and perhaps a river deity. Later writers mention a sacred landscape: hills, stones and groves that were 'worshipped'. But the evidence is very sketchy. We have some names but they are filtered through Latin and Roman religion, and the Christian writers after the Romans all disapproved of paganism. They were repulsed by anything they did know, and preferred not to reveal it in detail.

Q DID THE ROMAN INVASION IN 43 CE IMPACT CELTIC PAGANISM IN BRITAIN AND IF SO, HOW?

A The Roman forces brought their own deities and they also paired local ones with Roman ones: so Sulis was equated with Minerva, Cocidius with Mars, etc. We can imagine the troops and administrators who came here from as far away as North Africa and Eastern Europe learned not just names but lore and practices associated with local religion. I would love to know the legends they were told! There's evidence that the old Celtic gods and goddesses were honoured in the Roman way, with gifts, vows and sacrifices, but it's likely there were also other ceremonies too.

Q WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE CELTIC REVIVAL AND WHY DID IT OCCUR?

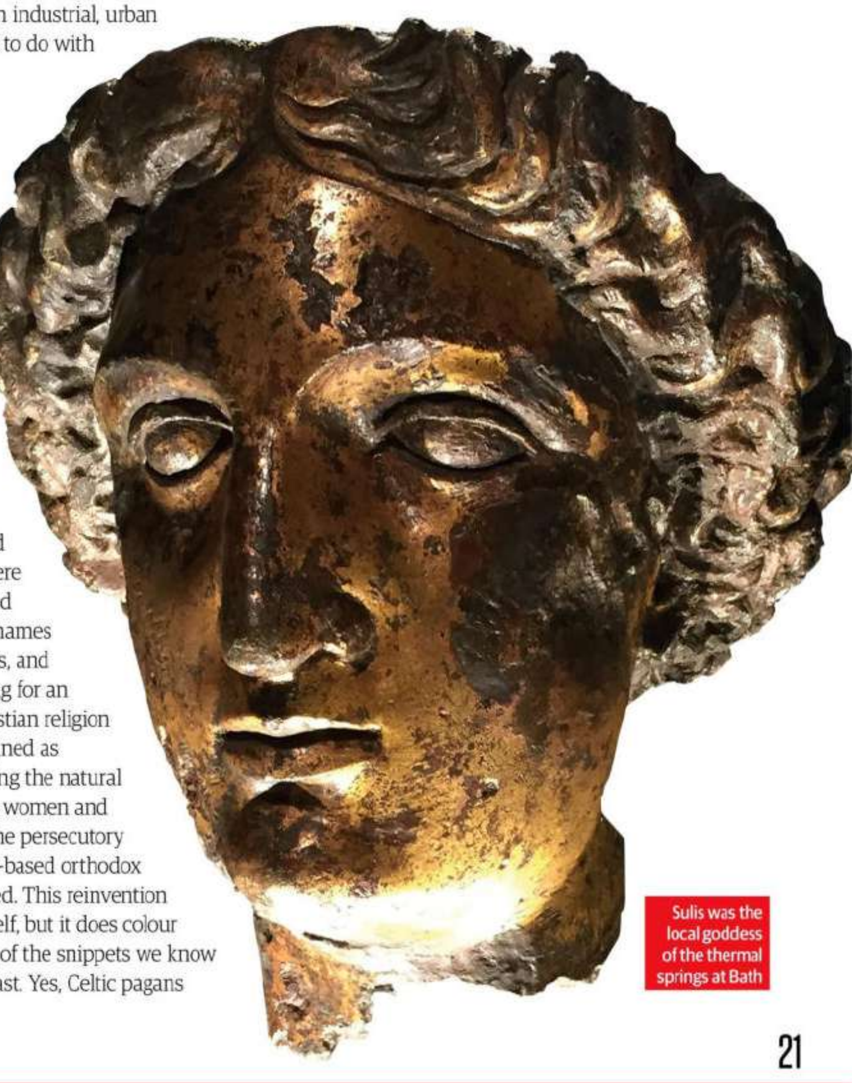
A In the 18th century, many European writers became fascinated by the deep past, and many identified their nations' histories with Celts - from Eastern Europe to Britain, Celts were claimed as ancestors. By the mid-19th century, literature and art often adopted specific stories and styles of expression that they called Celtic. People wrote Celtic epics, retold ancient stories and based styles of jewellery, architecture and furnishing on archaeological discoveries that were labelled 'Celtic' too. There is evidence that some of this was really old: ancient peoples had a fondness for interlace designs, and people across Europe did recite poetic romances about heroes, dragons and monsters. However, the desire to revive a Celtic identity had a lot to do with nationalism and rural nostalgia in an industrial, urban age, and rather less to do with historical facts.

Q ARE THERE ANY MYTHS OR FALSE PERCEPTIONS ABOUT CELTIC PAGANISM THAT CONTINUE TO PERSIST TO THIS DAY?

A Paganism began to revive in the 19th century alongside art and literature associated with Celts, and where possible people tried to recover ancient names and rites. There was, and is, a genuine longing for an authentic non-Christian religion that could be imagined as localised, reverencing the natural world, appealing to women and avoiding some of the persecutory elements that book-based orthodox religion has acquired. This reinvention is fascinating in itself, but it does colour our understanding of the snippets we know from the ancient past. Yes, Celtic pagans did have goddesses, but did women have a more equal social role? Yes, they associated religion with springs, but did they value ecosystems? Yes, they probably had rites and a festival calendar, but what exactly did that look like? We can guess based on the best evidence we have, but we don't always know the answer.

Q ARE THERE ANY CELTIC PAGAN TRADITIONS THAT ARE STILL PRACTICED TODAY?

A Celtic pagan religion is very popular today. Go to a pagan resource centre or shop in Britain, and you'll see references to Celts, nature religions, magical goddesses and interlace jewellery. People want very much to mark time and rejoice in old ways. Festivals associated with Celtic paganism by early writers - landscape rituals, fire and spring festivities, for example - are also celebrated, but with a heavy overlay of Christian ideas and myths because one-and-a-half millennia separate Western Europeans from ancient Celtic paganism. We can still imagine some of the priorities that the ancient Celts had, though: fertility of fields, usable water, winter warmth, harvest, life and death. And these resonances survive in contemporary religion, both Christian and pagan. Asking questions about where the rites and ideas come from and how old they are is part of the experience.



Sulis was the local goddess of the thermal springs at Bath

Places to Explore

CELTIC RUINS

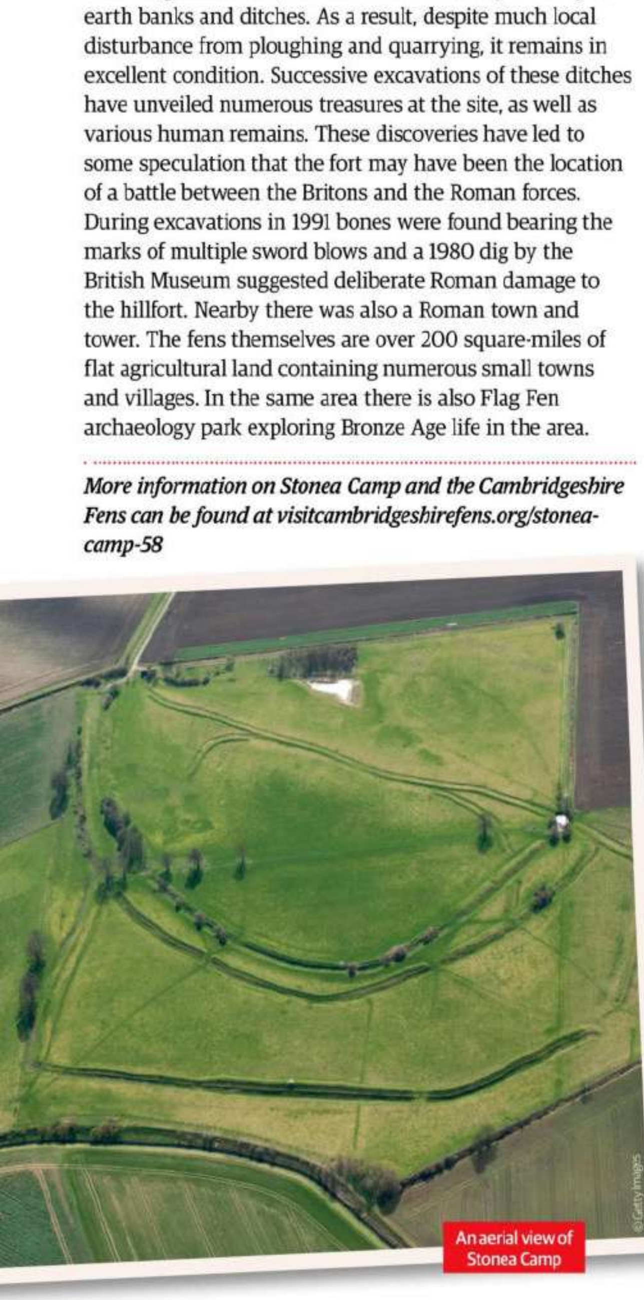
Discover ancient ruins among mysterious moors and curious cliff tops

① STONEA CAMP

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENS

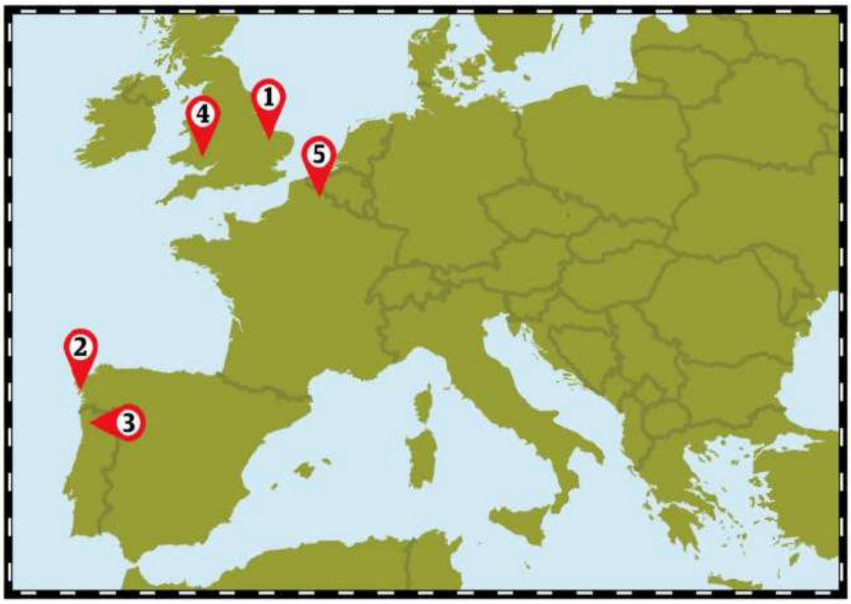
A large multivallate hillfort, Stonea Camp is one of only three of its kind still surviving in the area. Located on a small gravel island near March in the centre of the Cambridgeshire Fens, the site was fortified by an array of earth banks and ditches. As a result, despite much local disturbance from ploughing and quarrying, it remains in excellent condition. Successive excavations of these ditches have unveiled numerous treasures at the site, as well as various human remains. These discoveries have led to some speculation that the fort may have been the location of a battle between the Britons and the Roman forces. During excavations in 1991 bones were found bearing the marks of multiple sword blows and a 1980 dig by the British Museum suggested deliberate Roman damage to the hillfort. Nearby there was also a Roman town and tower. The fens themselves are over 200 square-miles of flat agricultural land containing numerous small towns and villages. In the same area there is also Flag Fen archaeology park exploring Bronze Age life in the area.

More information on Stonea Camp and the Cambridgeshire Fens can be found at visitcambridgeshirefens.org/stonea-camp-58



An aerial view of Stonea Camp

©Getty Images



② CASTRO DE BAROÑA

SPAIN

The ruins of the Castro De Barona

Image source: wiki/Xosé (Wikipedia galega)

Situated on the northern coast of Spain, these impressive circular ruins and defensive stone walls are all that remain of a once powerful fortified settlement. Located on the cliff, the ruins have helped shape the peninsula's history and create in an eerie and spectacular vista as the ocean stretches out behind them. A moat separates the town from the fort, which would have contained some 20 small establishments. Although the outer wall has deteriorated with age, it's suspected that it once surrounded the entire fort in order to fend off attacks from the sea. Perhaps due to their obscure location, the ruins lay forgotten until 1933, when they were first excavated. Notoriously difficult to get to, the way is marked only by a few small signs. A long hike across the beach or a precarious cliff path are the only ways through which visitors can reach this once-forgotten marvel. It's one of a number of similar 'castro' sites in Spain, including Santa Tegra in A Guarda.

Strong shoes are advised and visitors should avoid making the trip in hazardous weather.

The view across the valley from Citânia de Briteiros

3 CITÂNIA DE BRITEIROS
PORTUGAL

Another fine example of surviving castro culture ruins, Citânia de Briteiros is located near the valley of the River Ave in Portugal. Called 'castros', the name refers to the high fortified settlements of these Celtic peoples but has also been adopted as an archaeological term used to describe the material culture of these Bronze Age Iberian civilisations. Due to their strategic position and strong defences, these settlements were able to hold invaders at bay and were subject only to Roman conquest. Of all, Citânia de Briteiros is perhaps one of the most impressive. Because of its unusual location, it is suspected (along with the Citânia de São Julião) to have been a trading site between the people of the coast and those of the mainland. During the 1930s, the construction of a road led to the uncovering of the castro's impressive cremation furnace, which had lain undiscovered. The site later became a key archaeological dig and numerous academics such as Francisco Martins Sarmento ventured there to seek the origins of the Portuguese people and culture. Now Citânia is a thriving tourist destination and a stunning reminder of the area's Celtic past.

More information can be found at visitportugal.com

The standing stone Maen Llia

Image source: wiki/ Immanuel Giel

4 BRECON BEACONS
WALES

Around 42 miles wide, the Brecon Beacons is one of the most beloved and famous of the United Kingdom's national parks. It's also home to a slew of historical sites, including numerous remains of Celtic fortifications. Overlooking the small town of Crickhowell, Crug Hywel is 1,480ft above sea level. The mountain on which the fort can be found has been nicknamed 'tabletop mountain' due to its distinctive flat appearance. A teardrop-shaped fort, the remains of a rampart wall and inner defensive wall can still be seen. Another, perhaps more famous, Brecon landmark is that of Maen Llia, a standing stone located in the middle of remote moorland. Suspected to date to the Bronze Age, the stone may have overlapped with Celtic Britons but may also have been somewhat earlier. Maen Llia is a favourite landmark among visitors. Another hillfort located in the Beacons is Pen-y-crug, although little survives of this once-impressive fortification. However, the hill's sweeping views of the surrounding area make it an ideal strategic point and a worthwhile visit for the would-be Celtic tourist.

Visitor Centre open all year, 9.30am-4.30/5pm (except Christmas). Further information can be found at breconbeacons.org

The statue of Vercingetorix located at Alesia

Image source: wiki/Jochen Jahnke at German Wikipedia Project

5 ALESIA
BURGUNDY

Not much remains of Gallic Alesia, the once grand capital of the Mandubii tribe and the site of perhaps the key battle in the Gallic wars against the Roman Empire. The leader of the Celtic forces was the charismatic and formidable Vercingetorix. A victory for him could have meant that numerous independent Celtic tribes who had feared the Romans for so long would have been able to unify in a combined resistance against the might of Rome. For Julius Caesar, defeat would have been a humiliation too far both for his personal ambitions and the Roman Empire. As these two forces met in the field, what resulted was a battle the like of which the world had never seen before. Caesar's interior siege lines extended some 18 kilometres, encircling Alesia, with a further exterior wall to repel attacks from the outside from the Celtic forces. Caesar utilised towers, ditches and palisades among a host of other ingenious contraptions in his bid to take the town. Needless to say, it paid off. Following Caesar's victory over Vercingetorix and the town's capture, it was occupied and became a Gallo-Roman settlement. As a result of this there are few surviving ruins that can be attributed to the Celts. However, in the centre of a vast plane a huge monument to Vercingetorix has been erected. It celebrates the brave Celtic hero's resistance against an ultimately unstoppable force.

Opening times are seasonal and vary between 10am-5pm and 10am-7pm. Entry varies between €6-10. More information can be found at alesia.com

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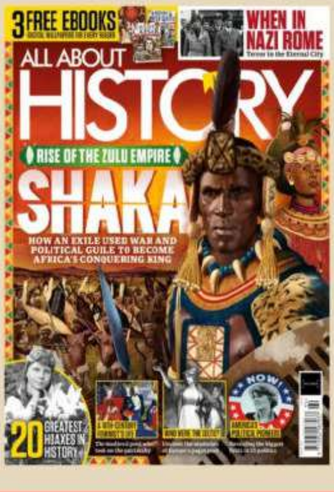

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RISE OF THE ZULU EMPIRE

SHAKA

HOW AN EXILE USED WAR AND POLITICAL GUILE TO BECOME AFRICA'S CONQUERING KING

Written by Jonathan Gordon

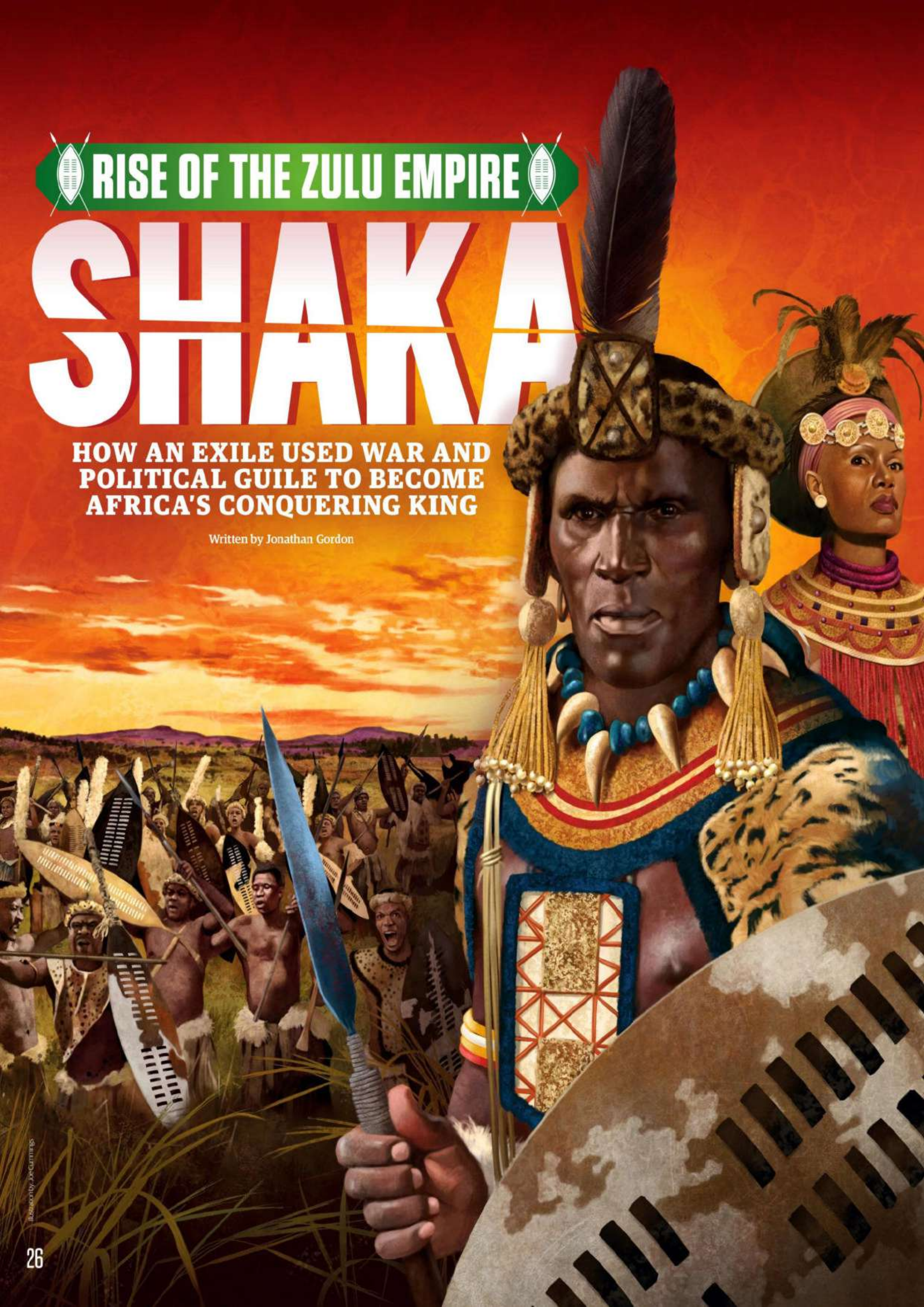


Illustration by Joe Cummings

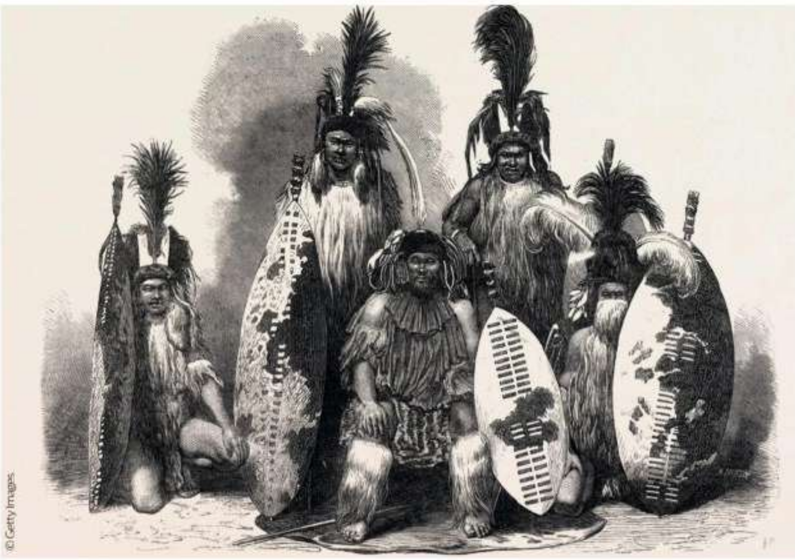
Image source: Wellcome Collection

Who was the real Shaka kaSenzangakhona? Despot? Illegitimate usurper? Moderniser? Skilled diplomat? Bloody tyrant? Any exploration of the history of the first king of the Zulu has to inevitably come to the conclusion that we're not entirely sure. The history of Shaka has become so entwined with the motives of those who wished to make use of his tale. One source for the life of Shaka are notes taken by Western colonisers and traders, often looking to push the agenda of a savage African king or hoping to boost book sales through salacious accounts of atrocity after atrocity. Our other source is the oral history of the people themselves, often recorded many years after the event and sometimes quite clearly coloured by the people who succeeded Shaka, hoping to raise or diminish him depending on their own agenda.

So, is there anything about the life of Shaka we can be assured is true? Thankfully, yes. There's enough detail scattered through all of these sources to see an image of a king emerge, albeit one packed with caveats and requiring some amount of scepticism. What we can certainly do is deflate and explain some of the myths around Shaka and, just as interestingly, explain why they exist. Shaka has become an icon, used to this day as a pillar of Zulu identity. His legend has value to people and that in itself is worth examination. Hopefully by the end of this you will have a better understanding of who Shaka really was and why other depictions of him have existed for the last 200 years.

BEFORE SHAKA

Shaka was born into a region dominated by clans, large and small, working on a kind of tributary system. When his father, Senzangakhona, was chief of the Zulu they were a lower level chiefdom situated in the valley of the White Mfolozi River, paying tribute to the Mthethwa to their southeast. The Mthethwa were one of three major chiefdoms to whom everyone else was paying tribute, the others being the Ngwane (later the Swazi) and the Ndwandwe. These three groups primarily all spoke Nguni and they vied with each other through the late-18th century into the beginning of the 19th century for control of the region nestled in the south-east of the continent. It was a region ▶



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ABOVE Zulu wedding ceremonies continue to be a massive event

LEFT Zulu warrior traditions lasted for many years, as this 1868 image shows with a vast array of terrain and soil types, ideal for farming a variety of crops and grazing animals.

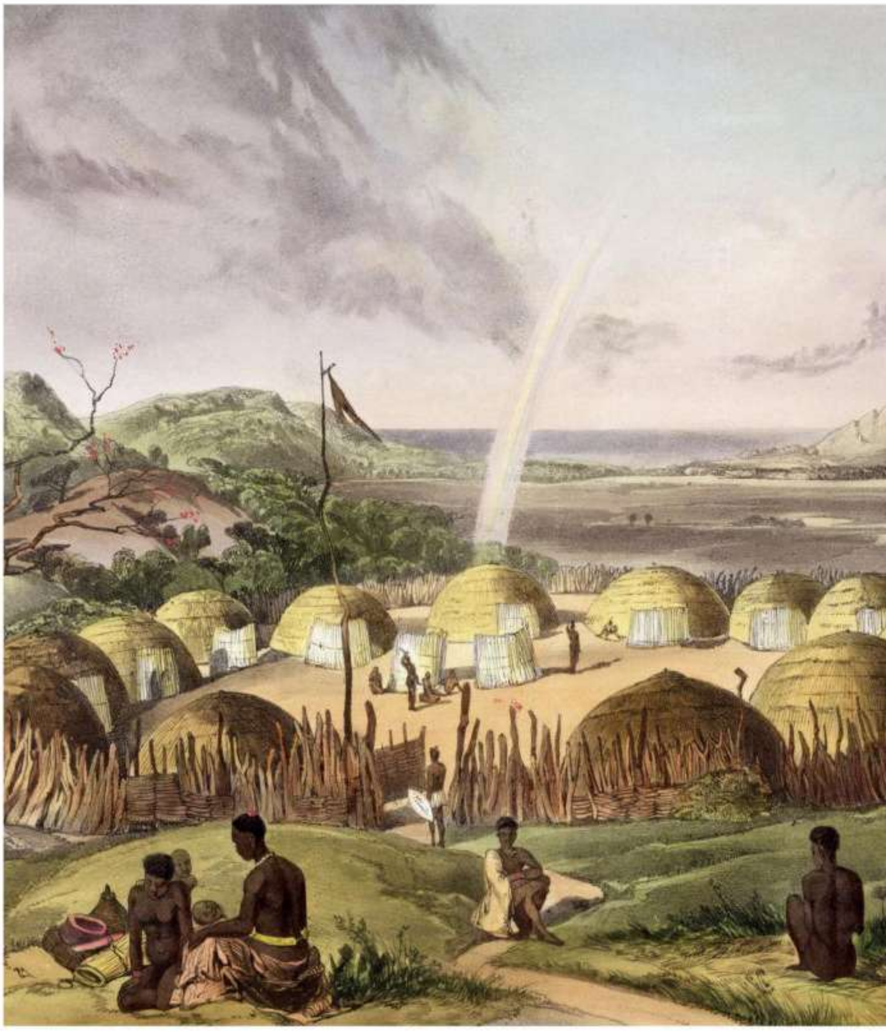
As the new century began new chiefs began to emerge that would shape the next decades. Zwide became the leader of the Ndwandwe around 1805 and would reign for about 15 years before he fatally crossed paths with Shaka, as we'll explain later, and Dingiswayo became the chief of the Mthethwa in 1806, someone who would become integral to the life of the future Zulu king. Around the same time as Dingiswayo, Senzangakhona reached maturity and was able to take the seat of his father Jama as chief of the Zulu (a regency was put in place run by his sister Mkabayi since their father had died in 1781).

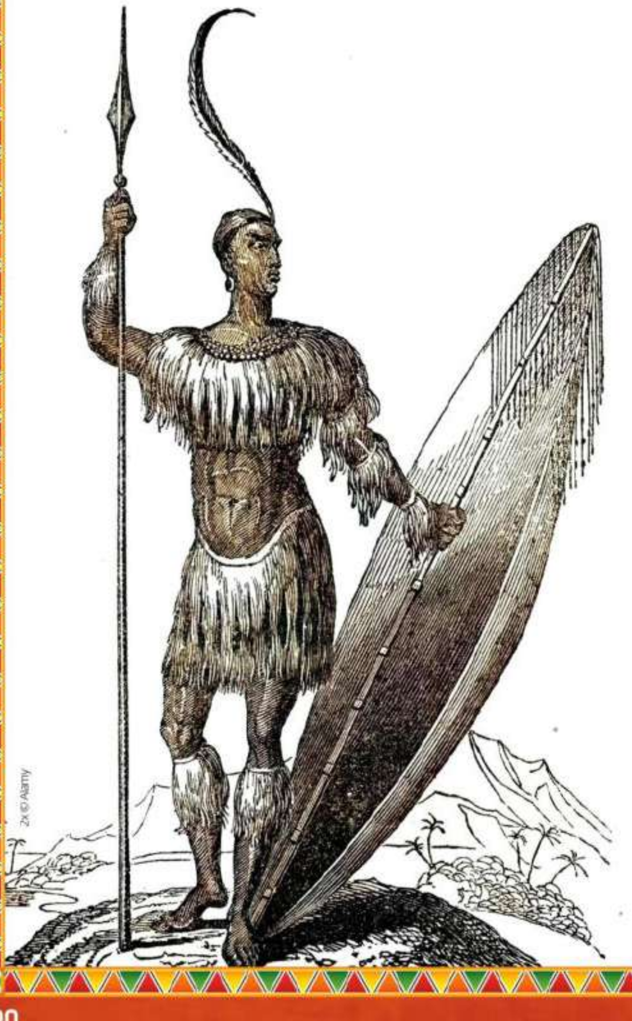
While the Zulu were a junior partner in the Mthethwa confederacy, this new generation of leaders sought to bring in a number of modernising changes to the society they inherited. Organising men and women into age regiments, or amabutho, is one element that became common, essentially structuring people into work groups by age rather than regionality. It also appears that the Mthethwa, and by extension their tributary chiefdoms like the Zulu, did away with the ritual circumcision of men to mark their transition to maturity and marked this moment instead by use of head rings. This appears to have been for very practical reasons since the ceremony naturally involved adult men being out of action for several weeks as they recovered from the process (as well as schooling elements of the ceremony that happened beforehand) and they were entering a more modern and fast-paced world that required quick deployment of manpower. It's worth noting here that some of these most significant changes have sometimes been credited to the reign of Shaka, but the evidence would suggest that the reforms were coming into effect long before his time and that his contribution was either to accelerate or expand upon them.

RIGHT Relatively small homesteads with extended family units like this were the main mode of collective living, with everyone helping out with farming or hunting

FAR-RIGHT One of Shaka's nephews, Utimuni, depicted in 1849

BELOW We have no authoritative description of what Shaka actually looked like and most Western depictions tend to get details wrong, such as the size of this shield





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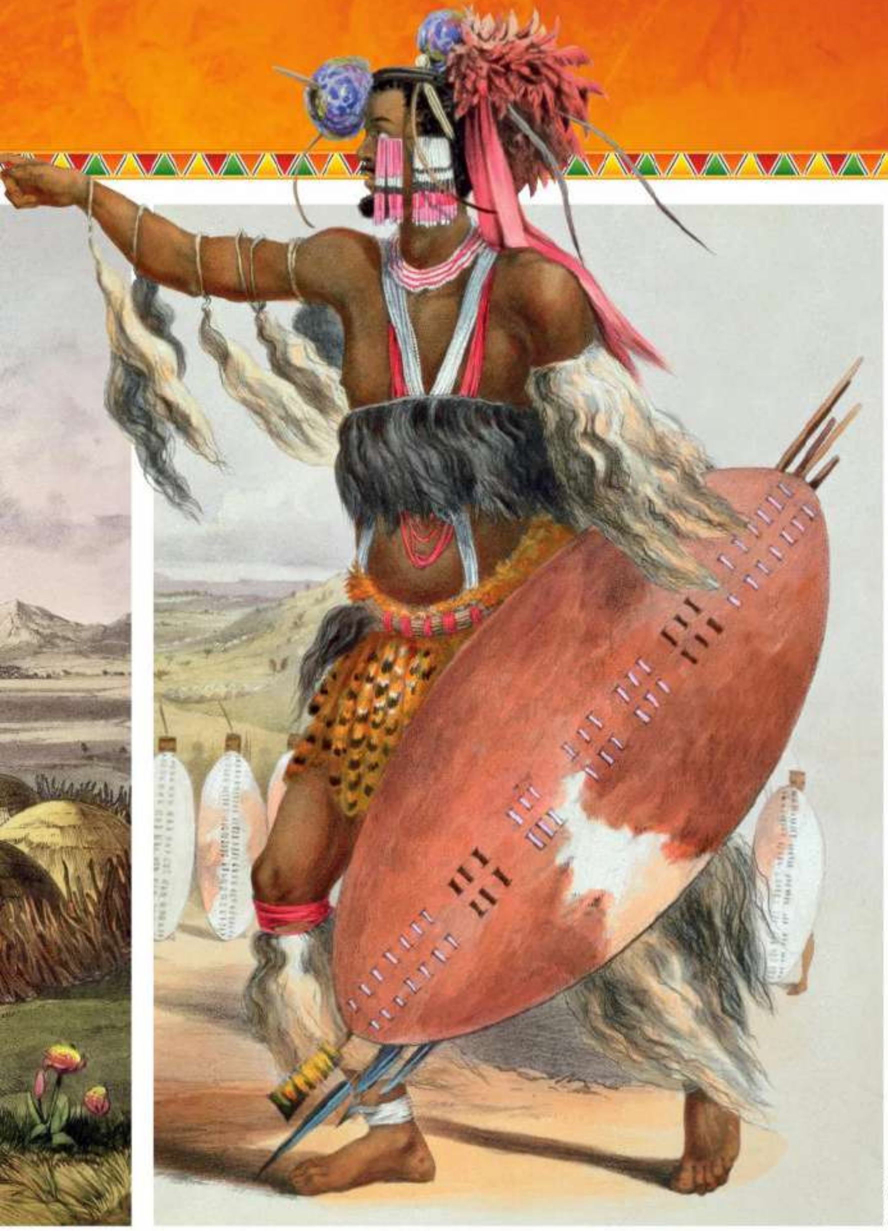
Society more widely remained driven by the family unit, which typically involved a single patriarch at its head, often with multiple wives. The homestead, or umuzi, would involve a single hut structure for the head of the family with further huts arcing on either side for each of the wives to form a horseshoe shape. In the centre would be a kraal, meaning an animal pen. Collectively the family would be expected to meet the needs of everyone in the homestead, with women often farming the land and men typically hunting. Royal households were not much different, adding military considerations into the mix. They recruited men from the age regiments and had their own special groups dedicated to defending their interests. When not fighting, however, they still had to help out with the crops and hunting like everyone else.

A MYSTERIOUS BIRTH

It was into this relatively fractious but structured world that Shaka was born to his father Senzangakhona of the Zulu and mother Nandi, the daughter of the Langeni chief. The how and when of this rather pivotal event remains a matter of great debate. Most commonly, Shaka's birth is said to have been sometime in July



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THE KING-MAKING AUNT

Exploring the importance of Mkabayi

Having not taken a wife of his own, Shaka relied heavily on his extended family, particularly the women, to run key parts of his kingdom. His own mother, Nandi, was chief among these figures for much of his life, but of near equal importance was the sister of Senzangakhona and Shaka's aunt, Mkabayi.

Mkabayi had acted as regent on behalf of Senzangakhona when their father Jama had died, and it's said she had even found her father the wife that bore him his son in the first place. Senzangakhona had still not reached the age of maturity and so Mkabayi had to step in to maintain the continuity of the family line. She and many of her sisters never married, preferring to remain princesses among the Zulu people rather than be married off to rival groups. In this position they had more autonomy and power than they would have done as the wife of a different chief.

While Nandi and Shaka were thought to be in exile, or at least living away from the Zulu, it had been the sisters like Mkabayi who had kept in touch and visited with the young Shaka, which may have helped build a strong bond between them. When Senzangakhona passed away, it was notable that Mkabayi gave her blessing to Shaka to return and usurp the chosen heir, helping to smooth things over with the people beforehand.

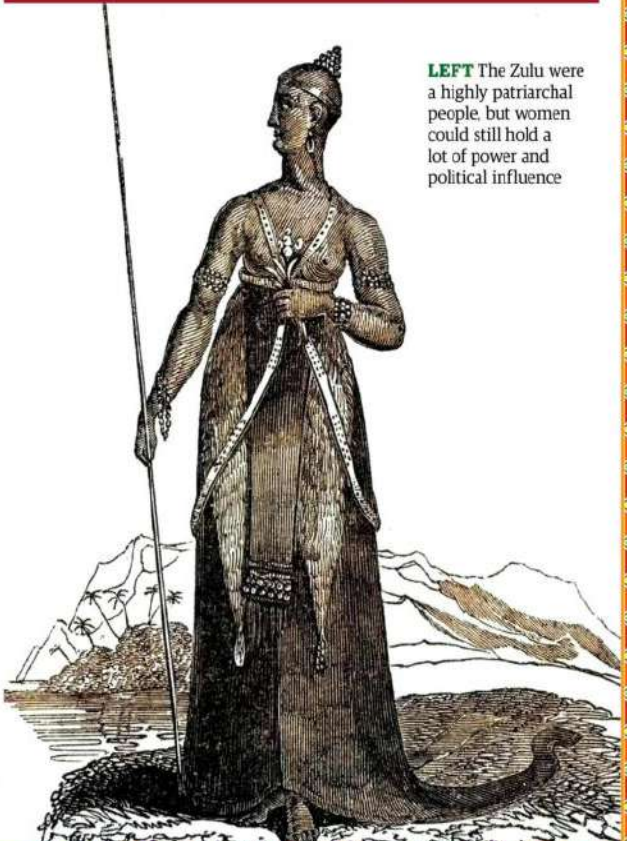
Mkabayi was no less important to Shaka's downfall, however. After the death of Nandi and military setbacks, she plotted with his brothers Dingane and Mhlangana to assassinate him. She then helped to orchestrate Dingane take the throne by plotting against Mhlangana.

1787, but Dan Wylie in his work on Shaka estimates that something like 1781 makes as much sense. That would have made Shaka about 35 when he finally took over as chief of the Zulus. The how is the more complex element. Claims over Shaka's legitimacy are integral to his claim to the Zulu leadership and debunking that claim became important to many who followed him, both inside and outside the kingdom.

The most popular story is that Shaka was conceived out of wedlock, to the great shame of both Senzangakhona and Nandi. The pregnancy was hidden and blamed on itshati (a type of intestinal bug) and this is possibly where the name 'Shaka' came from. Mother and child were exiled in order to assuage the shame and the couple never married.

However, the evidence doesn't really support this tale. For a start, Nandi and Senzangakhona had at least two children together, the other being Shaka's sister Nomcoba. So, the more believable story is that Nandi was an isingodosi, or betrothed maiden, to Senzangakhona and while sex between them was prohibited before he came of age, they were permitted to be intimate with one another. The pregnancy therefore broke taboo, but merely meant that the rites needed to be rushed through and ultimately they did marry. It should

> "THIS NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS SOUGHT TO BRING IN A NUMBER OF MODERNISING CHANGES TO THE SOCIETY THEY INHERITED"



LEFT The Zulu were a highly patriarchal people, but women could still hold a lot of power and political influence also be remembered that Nandi was not Senzangakhona's only wife. In fact he had 15 of them and at least 18 sons between them in his lifetime. In any case, Shaka's legitimacy carried with it enough ambiguity to allow others to fill in the gaps as they wished.

As for the exile portion of the story, that comes up again and again, even if the legitimacy question is put to rest. Some degree of travel between family units seems reasonable to expect and given the long distances and lack of any modern transport methods, such trips might well cover long periods of time. Still, Nandi is said to have been a fiery and strong-willed woman who had no fear of standing up to her husband even as one of the lesser wives and it's possible that Shaka's parents clashed frequently. Still, when he was old enough Shaka was initiated into his father's key age regiment, the iWombe ibutho, so he wasn't completely ostracised when growing up.

We have records of Nandi and her son leaving to live with other groups on multiple occasions, whether her own Langeni or others, and being visited by extended family. Eventually Shaka found himself with the Mthethwa, the chiefdom to whom Senzangakhona, along with around 30 other clans, paid tribute.

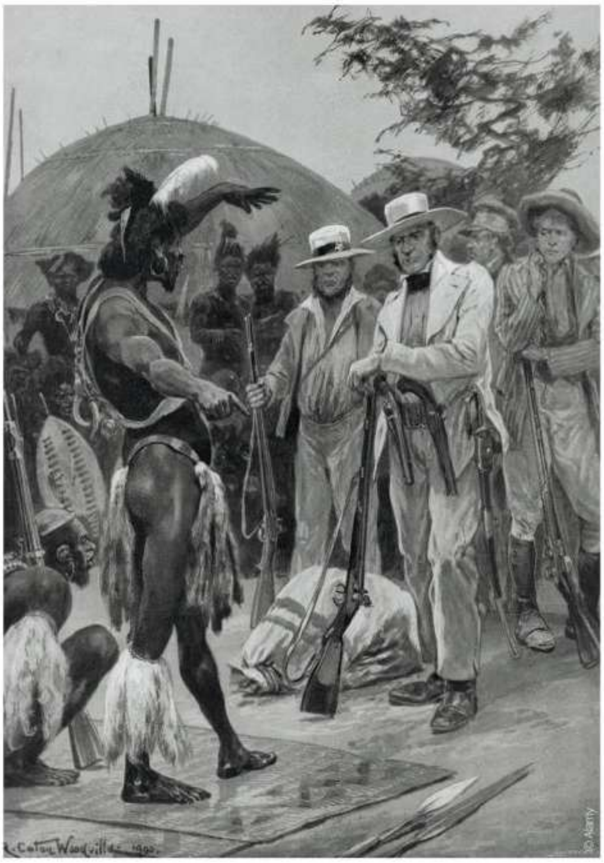
RIGHT Photos from years after Shaka's reign show how the traditional ceremonies and rights continued to be integral to the kingdom

MIDDLE-RIGHT The ox-hide shields of the Zulu have become an iconic symbol of the people

FAR-RIGHT Family units were the heart of the Zulu state and all the structure came from small household communities, often with a single patriarch and multiple wives

2x Image source: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

BELOW Farewell's arrival and establishment of Port Natal offered Shaka the trade link to Europe that he hoped would secure his legacy



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THE FORGING OF SHAKA

It's clear that it was under the tutorship of Dingiswayo that Shaka grew and learned most of what would serve him in taking the Zulu chiefdom and turning it into a kingdom - perhaps arguably even an empire. Shaka is said to have risen quickly through the ranks of the military thanks to his intelligence and initiative to become a respected general in the Mthethwa army, helping to win many victories for his chief. He was even given the honorary name, 'uSitshaka ka sitshayeki' meaning 'he who beats but is not beaten'.

Dingiswayo himself was one of the more progressive and reforming chiefs of the period, and it's from him that a few key innovations can be traced back that Shaka took on in later years. For instance, he moved further towards age regiments and away from regional work groups than other chiefs, which Shaka expanded. He also took tighter control of things like marriage, mandating when the men of his amabutho could take a wife. Marriage generally was an important tool in his arsenal as he also made strategic marriage arrangements with rivals, such as with his greatest enemy Zwade of the Ndwandwe, whose sister he took as a bride.

On the whole the leadership of Dingiswayo looks fairly similar to that of Shaka, with a mix of diplomacy, innovative thinking and occasionally brutal violence and single-mindedness. In coming to the throne he had killed his own brother and this is another lesson Shaka seems to have taken on board. He would also have taken into account the way in which placing the right ally at the head of a chiefdom could help maintain your own power, as Dingiswayo did when he backed Shaka to claim the Zulu chiefdom.

Senzangakhona fell ill and died in 1816, leaving his heir Sigujana to take over the Zulu. There are many tales from the region that tell of Shaka bewitching or poisoning his father, but the details are unclear on this point. Sigujana was only a little younger than Shaka, but belonged to his father's senior and eighth wife Bhibhi. As his first-born son, however, Shaka would have a strong claim to take his place and thanks to the backing of Dingiswayo of the more powerful Mthethwa, that wasn't likely to be a problem. A plot appears to have been hatched in concert with another son of Senzangakhona named Ngwadi. Having brought Sigujana into his confidence Ngwadi killed his half-brother

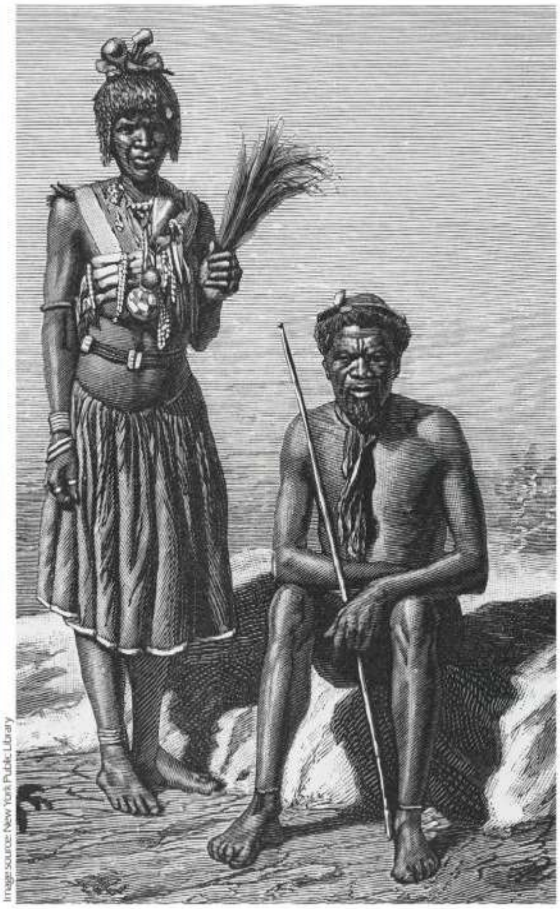


Image source: New York Public Library

while he bathed in the river and sent word to Shaka to return to their father's capital of Siklebheni.

FROM CHIEF TO KING

What's the difference between a chief and a king? Possibly it's somewhat semantic, but the key difference between the role played by Shaka and that played by his father is that Shaka ended up at the head of the chiefdom pyramid and arranged what might previously have been a loose confederacy into a much more organised state. And he wasted no time in asserting his position even when he was still technically working under the umbrella of the Mthethwa.

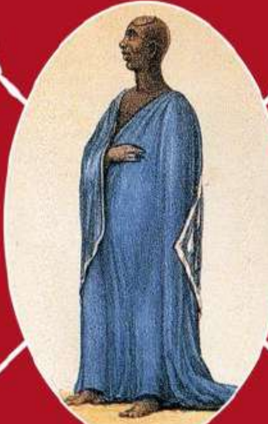
> "THE LEADERSHIP OF DINGISWAYO LOOKS FAIRLY SIMILAR TO THAT OF SHAKA, WITH A MIX OF DIPLOMACY AND BRUTAL VIOLENCE"

Shaka moved closer towards having a full-time standing military force, making it the very centre of his political and social structure. They would be put through regular military training and would be sent out on regular raids to intimidate unruly tribes and take cattle from them, maintaining a base level of fear of the wrath of their king. These warriors would live in their own barracks and a strict prohibition on marriage without the king's authority remained. Shaka would personally never take a wife, which in turn has fuelled much speculation about his sexuality or impotence, but the fact remains that his homestead was full of women and there's evidence he fathered children. This in turn led to stories that he would kill women who became pregnant by him, but again such stories may have been politically motivated, so it's unclear.

Women generally were a massive part of Shaka's political structure in the years

THE ZULU SUCCESSORS

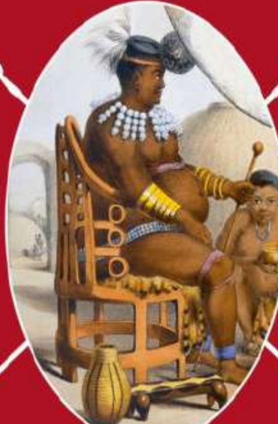
How the house of Senzangakhona continued



DINGANE

Reign: 1828-1840

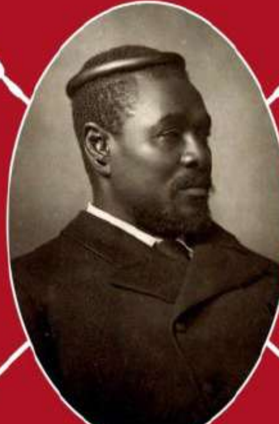
The son of Senzangakhona's sixth wife and half-brother of Shaka conspired to kill the Zulu king and take his place with the help of some of his other half-brothers. Without Shaka in charge, however, some of the small communities on the outer edges of the kingdom began breaking away. Dingane was ultimately killed by his brother Mpande, who then took over.



MPANDE

Reign: 1840-1872

With the support of the Boers, Mpande looked to overthrow his brother in 1840. He was the son of Senzangakhona's ninth wife and may have been persuaded to seek the throne against his better judgement. As it was his son, Cetshwayo, would end up doing most of the heavy lifting of ruling after he defeated his brother to gain supremacy within the family.



CETSHWAYO

Reign: 1873-1879

Son of Mpande and grandson of Senzangakhona, Cetshwayo was the last king of an independent Zulu kingdom. He defeated and killed his younger brother Mbuyazi, who was his father's favourite, to secure his path to the throne in 1856 and was more or less in charge from that point. His reign ended with defeat in the Anglo-Zulu War, after which he was exiled.

Image sources: wiki/Allen Francis Gardiner; wiki/The Kings of the Zulu; wiki/Frances Ellen Colenso to come. Nandi, his mother, was now queen mother and as such in charge of all palace household affairs, making her very influential. Much against her earlier reputation, she is said to have been a calming voice in the ear of the young leader. The other women in his family, such as his aunts and the many other wives of his father, would go on to positions as the heads of other chiefdoms, acting as political emissaries to be a symbol of his power and control.

However, it was early in Shaka's time as chief that his benefactor Dingiswayo was captured and killed by longtime rival, Zwide of the Ndwandwe. This event would likely have been a massive blow, not least since Dingiswayo had backed his claim with the Zulu and been an important influence on him going into adulthood. Shaka refused to yield to Zwide and stood his ground, giving Shaka the first big chance to prove his leadership to his own people and to implement some of his more profound tactical changes.

Zwide is thought to have attacked with perhaps more than twice as many men as Shaka was able to muster, and yet the smaller chiefdom managed to beat back their enemy on several occasions, each time retreating back to safer land, rebuilding and training. A key tactical change actually came about through a change in primary weapons for the Zulu. At this point throwing spears, or assegai, were common, but Shaka moved his men to using a two-foot, long-bladed single-handed spear called an iklwa. Combined with their famous isihlangu shields, Zulu warriors would look to knock the enemy off balance with a shield strike and then stab them in the midriff. It was a vicious method of fighting, and in concert with their bull-horn formation that would encircle the enemy, it's easy to see why Shaka built a reputation as a particularly ruthless and bloody military leader.

It's interesting to note here that despite this effective fighting style there was seen to be a cost to the warriors in fighting this way and it was important for returning soldiers to undergo ancient cleansing traditions to rid them of an umnyama, or dark omen. Ceremonies for this cleansing could last four days before they could finally meet with the king, at which time the battle would be reviewed and honours handed out. Poor performance or cowardice could be punished by execution.

When Zwide's army attacked on their third assault in 1819 Shaka's forces retreated into the Nkandla mountains, using the difficult terrain to even out the fight against the superior Ndwandwe numbers. Having routed them, Shaka moved his men back across the Black Mfolozi in a surprise advance into Zwide's territory and forced them into retreat. Any defeat for a ruler in this region and era could be seen as delegitimising their right to rule. Defeat brought great shame upon Zwide and some of the smaller chiefdoms who had formerly paid tribute to him began breaking away. Some, but not all, turned to Shaka and the Zulu, who now inherited much of the Mthethwa region as theirs as well.

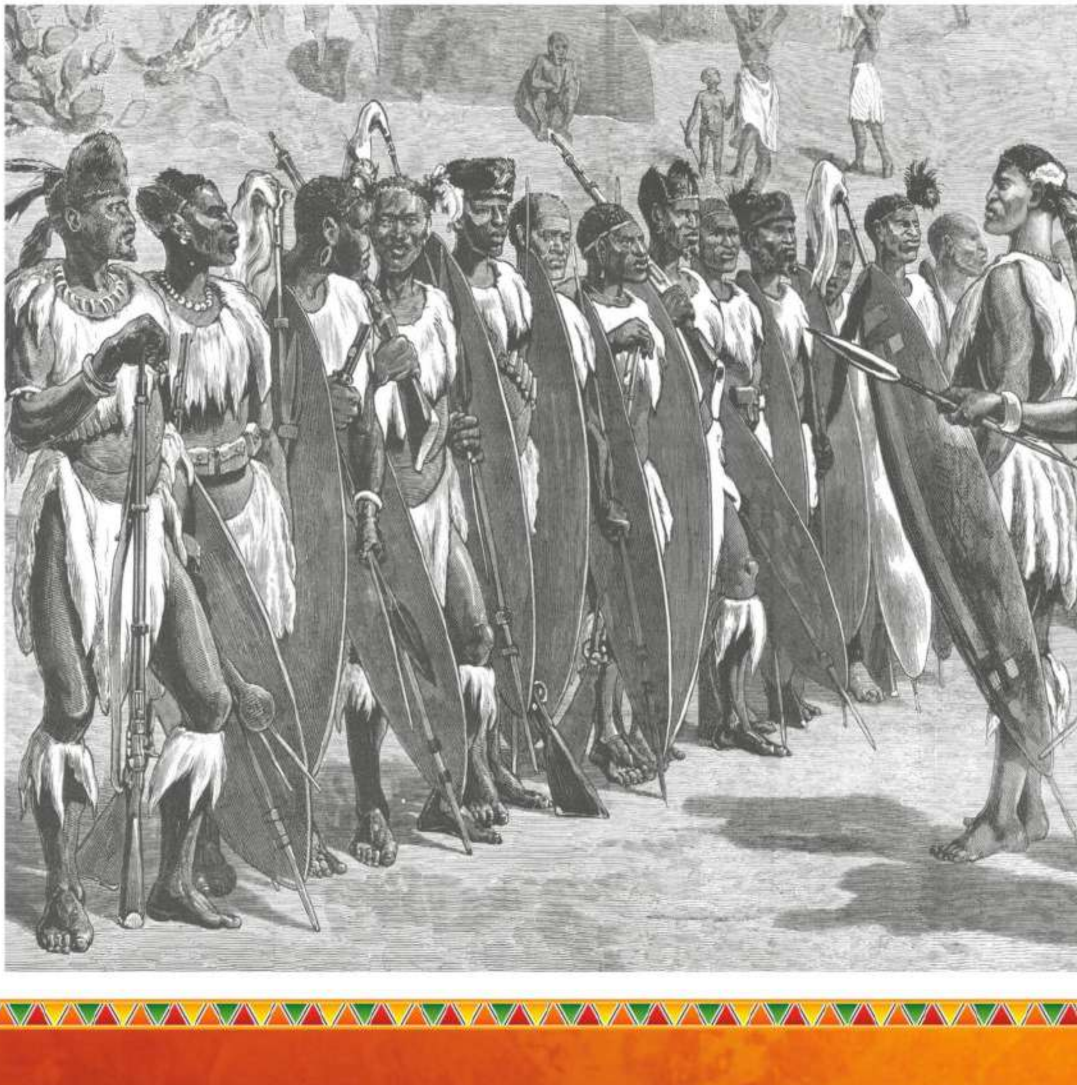
As mentioned earlier, some of these chiefdoms were given overseers in the form of members of the royal family, and others might be allowed a certain amount of autonomy (especially if they were on the outskirts of Zulu territory). But Shaka was not averse to doing much as his mentor had done for him and had chiefs assassinated in favour of more agreeable heirs to their lands.

> **"SHAKA WAS NOT AVERSE TO DOING MUCH AS HIS MENTOR HAD DONE FOR HIM AND HAD CHIEFS ASSASSINATED IN FAVOUR OF MORE AGREEABLE HEIRS"**

A good example of this is the Qwabe, who were another large power on the coast and seemed to be growing again. It's possible Shaka and their chief Phakathwayo had known each other in their youth and fought often, building a substantial enmity. Either way, the Zulu were victorious over the Qwabe at Hlokohloko Ridge, capturing Phakathwayo and executing him. The rest of the Qwabe

OPPOSITE The ferocity and speed of Zulu warriors seems to have been key to their victories, as well as their use of stabbing spears

BELOW The Anglo-Zulu War brought Zulu independence to an end

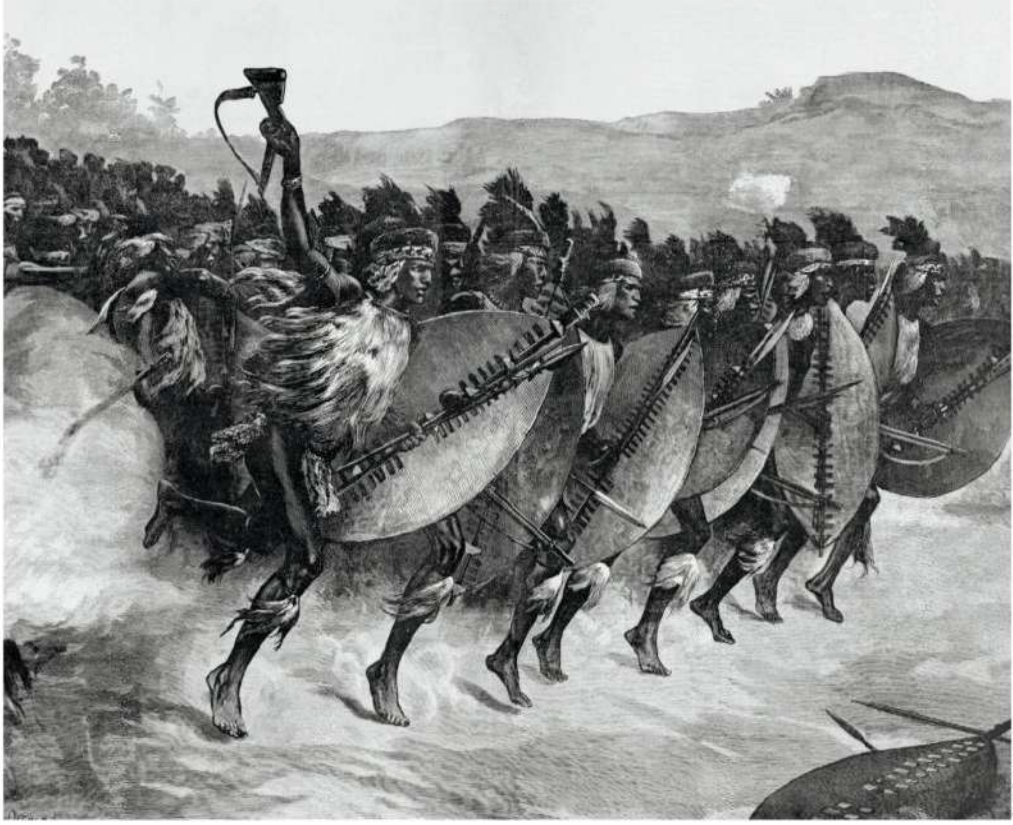


submitted to Shaka and Phakathwayo's half-brother Nqetho was brought out of exile to take his place. But the Qwabe would remain a threat, whether real or imagined, since Shaka would blame them for an assassination attempt on him some years later.

TRADE AND TRAGEDY

With his greatest adversaries dead or in retreat, Shaka went about building his kingdom into something that would last for the next 60 years. As tight central control was practically impossible, Shaka relied on regular raids and intimidation to maintain order, as well as strategic placing of family. To avoid the fate of Zwide he also needed to keep winning victories and he apparently worried about seeming old, plucking out the white hairs that emerged on his head. A defeat of Zulu forces by the Mpondo in 1824 was the first sign that Shaka's rule might crack.

Still, matters of justice were decided by Shaka, not local chiefs, as were diplomatic relations with those outside the Nguni-speaking world. When traders landed on Zulu land in a bay they named Port Natal,



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THE BEAST'S HORNS

Analysing the famous Zulu battle formation

One of the curious elements of Zulu battle tactics was the use of a formation known as the impondo zankomo, or The Beast's Horns, sometimes also referred to popularly as the Bull's Horns formation.

The structure looks a little like the head of a bull, and with cattle being so integral to Zulu culture you might guess it was somehow symbolic more than practical – but there was much more to it.

1. CENTRAL FORCE

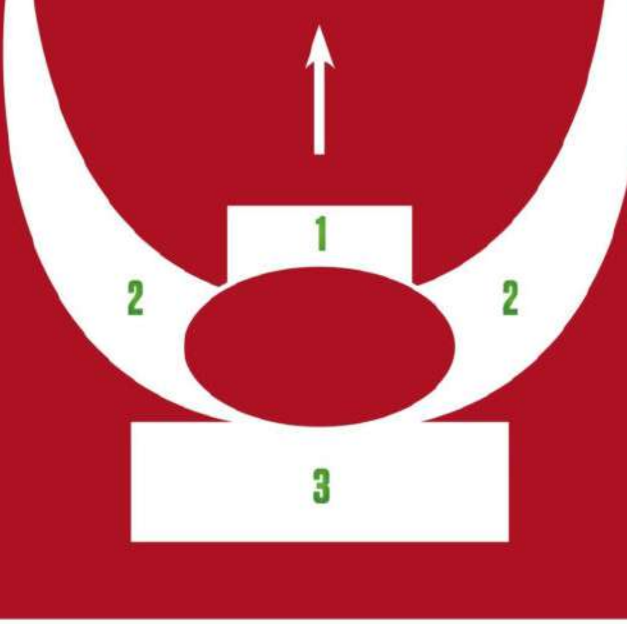
The isifuba was the 'chest' of the beast and would charge at the enemy directly and with great ferocity, hoping to knock them off balance and get them on their heels.

2. FLANKING

The izimpondo were the 'horns' of the manoeuvre and they flanked the enemy on both sides, rushing out from the middle and hoping to encircle them.

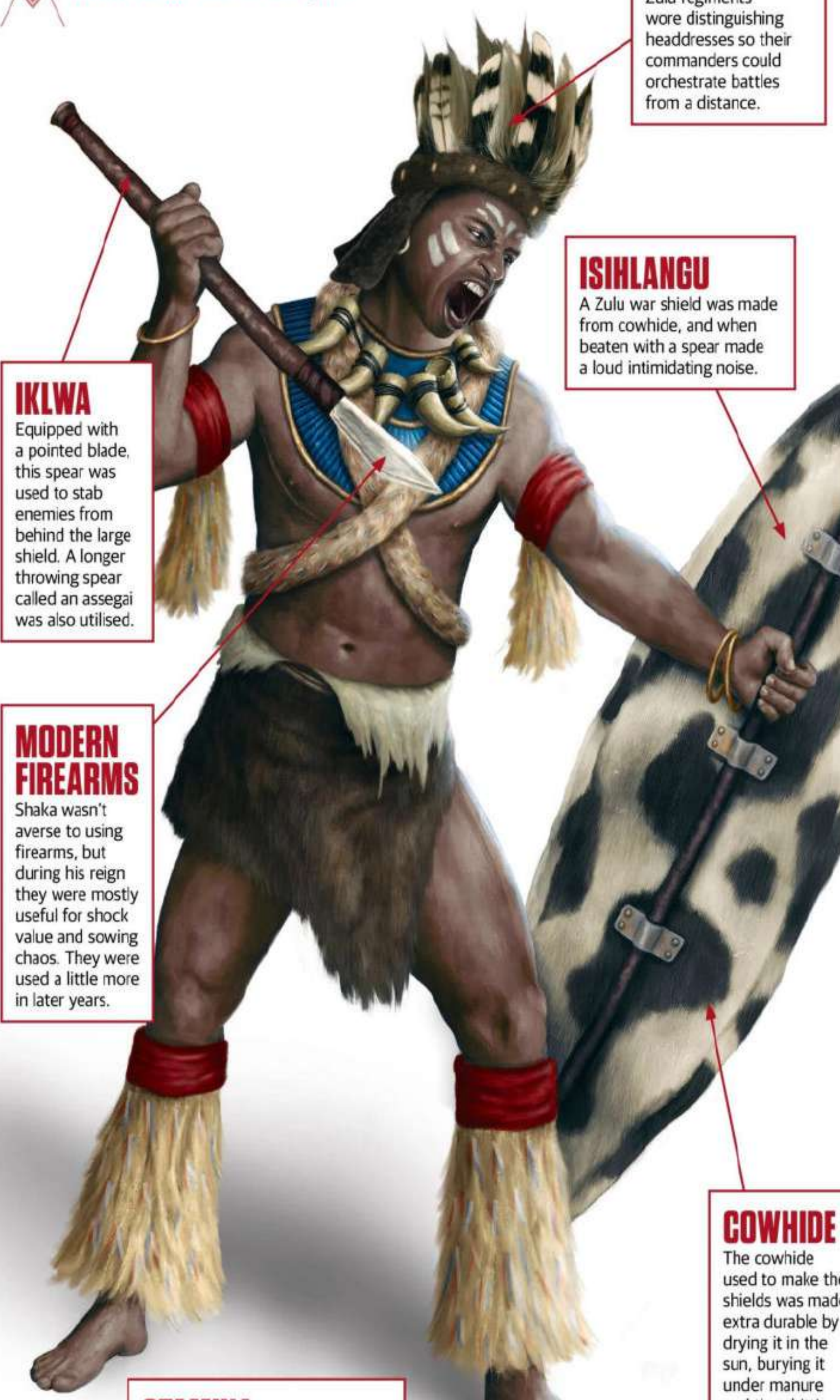
3. SUPPORT

The umava, or the 'loins', were the reserve force, leaping forward to cover the fallen in the front. They might even start facing away from the enemy to dissuade anyone from moving too soon.



A ZULU WARRIOR

What made them unique?



HEADDRESS
Zulu regiments wore distinguishing headdresses so their commanders could orchestrate battles from a distance.

ISIHLANGU
A Zulu war shield was made from cowhide, and when beaten with a spear made a loud intimidating noise.

IKLWA
Equipped with a pointed blade, this spear was used to stab enemies from behind the large shield. A longer throwing spear called an assegai was also utilised.

MODERN FIREARMS
Shaka wasn't averse to using firearms, but during his reign they were mostly useful for shock value and sowing chaos. They were used a little more in later years.

COWHIDE
The cowhide used to make the shields was made extra durable by drying it in the sun, burying it under manure and then hitting it with rocks.

STAMINA
With no supply train or heavy armour, Zulu forces could cover over 30 kilometres in a day. Shaka is thought to have had them run barefoot rather than in sandals to improve their speed.

Shaka saw the opportunity he'd been waiting for. The Cape Colony to the south had been established by the British in 1814 and he had long wished to establish a trade route with them, but was blocked by the distance and rival tribes in his way. The arrival of Lieutenant Francis George Farewell and Henry Francis Flynn to his kingdom in June 1824 could be the diplomatic opening he needed to enrich his kingdom far beyond anything his forebears had achieved.

Shaka granted them an audience, allowed them the right to stay in the bay, and almost like another small chiefdom they remained under his ultimate rule. Still, the situation was unsettled and later that year there was an attempt on Shaka's life by assassins. While he blamed the Qwabe, it's said that he suspected his half-brothers Dingane and Mhlangana. He sent forces to crush any embers of Qwabe resistance and chase down possible suspects. He even took the step of moving his capital into Qwabe territory to stamp his authority on them. Meanwhile, the Ndwandwe were building in strength once again under the leadership of Zwide's

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son, Sikhunyana. Shaka personally led the attack in October 1826, backed by some of the white settlers, and achieved a comprehensive victory, followed by the slaughter of many of the civilians. The Ndwandwe would not rise again, with survivors swearing allegiance to the Zulu or scattering to other chiefdoms.

Shaka hoped that trade through Port Natal and possibly the introduction of firearms into his army would prove to be the decisive path to more sustainable power. In 1827 he chose James Saunders King, the leader of a group that had shipwrecked in 1825, to lead his embassy to the Cape Colony. In the meantime, though, his mother Nandi died.

The downfall of Shaka really starts to accelerate from here and we can be fairly confident of this because the stories about his behaviour, genuine or not, become more and more extreme. It was suggested by leaders that succeeded him that he killed Nandi himself, perhaps in a rage that she had hidden a son he had fathered, but we do know that a period of mourning was established and he directed his rage at the Qwabe once again. Further stories claim he ordered all pregnant women and their husbands to be killed, but it does seem his chief advisor Ngomane kaMqomboli forbade harvesting or milking for a year, which was a rather impractical measure.

"IT WAS SUGGESTED BY LEADERS THAT SUCCEEDED SHAKA THAT HE KILLED HIS MOTHER NANDI HIMSELF, PERHAPS IN A RAGE"

The trader and explorer Nathaniel Isaacs tells us that Shaka began to see things were getting out of hand in the wake of Nandi's death and doubled his efforts to secure a partnership with the British.

James King's embassy in early 1828 failed as he tried to convince the British to take control of Port Natal, circumventing Shaka's authority, and this simply confused the matter. Shaka's attack on the Mpondo immediately to the colony's north likely didn't ease the growing tensions. The final stage of mourning required a war to cast out the umnyama and they were the perhaps inopportune targets. However, a second embassy was arranged in September, this time led by members of the original traders and a man named John Cane. Alas, while Cane would prove successful and a treaty was prepared, Shaka would be assassinated before it could arrive.

BELOW-LEFT
Today the symbols and customs of the Zulu, many of which Shaka helped to establish, are an important part of South African culture

BELOW-RIGHT
The 1986 TV series *Shaka Zulu*, starring Henry Cele in the title role, is one of the most iconic depictions of the Zulu king, although not necessarily the most accurate

THE LAST DAYS

Shaka ordered another campaign, this time heading north against the Gaza kingdom. Already an unpopular move so soon after a campaign heading south, it proved disastrous, with his army decimated by malaria and dysentery before they even reached the enemy. Forced to withdraw, what could have been a bolstering victory became a humiliation and was all that was needed for Shaka's enemies to see an opening. Much as he had suspected, his brothers Dingane and Mhlangana were plotting against him and set aside their rivalry to succeed Shaka to first depose him. Shaka's aunt, Mkabayi, who had helped his ascension, now backed this coup as well, perhaps blaming Shaka for the death of Nandi or even being the creator of that legend. They were also backed by one of his advisors, Mbopha.

On 23 or 24 September 1828 Shaka was killed by his brothers as he sat in his personal quarters. Mbopha created a distraction, scattering the many women and attendants around the king, and then one or all of the three men, although it's unclear how it played out exactly, stabbed him. It's said that his last words were, "What is the matter my father's children?" Ultimately Dingane would emerge as king, turning on Mhlangana as well.

So we come back to the question of who was the real Shaka kaSenzangakhona? Even to this day the Zulu nation is said to have been 'born out of Shaka's spear' and that description seems accurate. War and bloodshed were never far from this thoughts, but he may not have been the crazed murderer that later tales made him out to be. He was capable of incredible cruelty and violence, but it would be fair to say no kingdoms in history have been built on anything less. The very fact that he is surrounded by so much myth makes him all the more intriguing and the nation he left behind so unique.

HISTORY'S 20 GREATEST HOAXES

We count down frauds and fakes that fooled the world

Written by Callum McKelvie

The origin of the word 'hoax' comes from the verb 'hocus' as in 'hocus pocus', meaning magic, trickery and flimflam. It's appropriate, then, that the masterminds behind the various hoaxes that have been committed throughout successive centuries have employed all manner of wizardry and artistry to pull them off. Whether committed for money, notoriety or simply for the hell of it, society's fascination with hoaxes and the minds that created them continues to this day. Indeed, in this era of 'fake news' and internet scandals our obsession with hoaxes seems more prevalent than ever. Here, we examine 20 of the most successful and outlandish hoaxes throughout history.

SCAMMING WITH SHAKESPEARE

1795 The Bard has been the target of numerous hoaxes, none greater than that of William Henry Ireland, a 19-year-old whose father was a passionate Shakespeare fan. The fiendish fraudster claimed to have discovered poetry, letters and an unknown play in an old trunk. The hoax grew steadily, until the 'discovered' play, entitled *Vortigen*, was staged. By this time doubters had surfaced, chief among them the period's foremost Shakespeare expert, Edmond Malone. As the play ended, the actors were booed and fighting broke out between believers and non-believers. Soon after, Ireland confessed. Tragically, he had conceived the stunt to impress his father but the old man could not be convinced that his son possessed enough literary talent to pull off the ruse and died still claiming they were genuine.

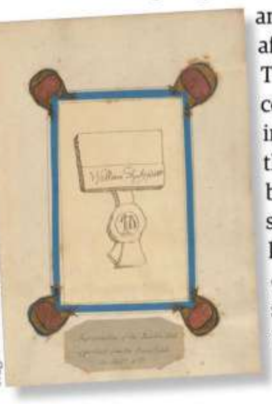


Image source: wiki/Houghton Library

HOAXING HUGHES

1971 Clifford Irving claimed to have the literary scoop of the century – the autobiography of Howard Hughes. Billionaire business magnate, film director, pilot and all round success story, Hughes had retired from public life in 1958. Refusing to be interviewed or even photographed in the successive years, public interest in the recluse had soared. When Irving appeared with the autobiography and letters that he said proved its authenticity, McGraw-Hill paid a $765,000 advance for the rights. But there was one thing Irving hadn't counted on – that Hughes would break his silence. On 7 January 1972, during a telephone conference with journalists, Hughes denied any participation in the work. Irving would serve 14 months in prison as a result.

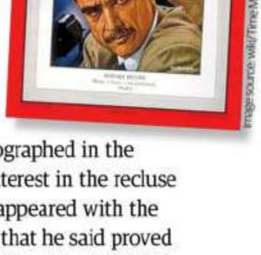
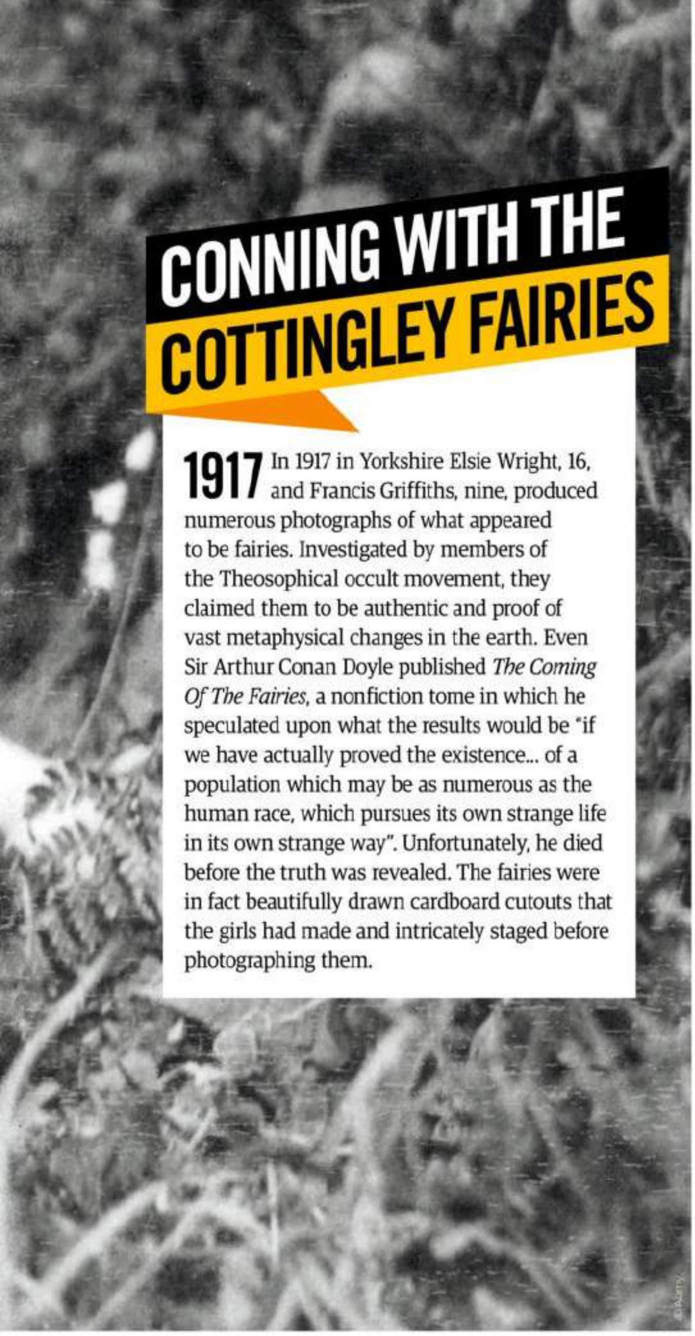


Image source: wiki/Time Magazine Archive



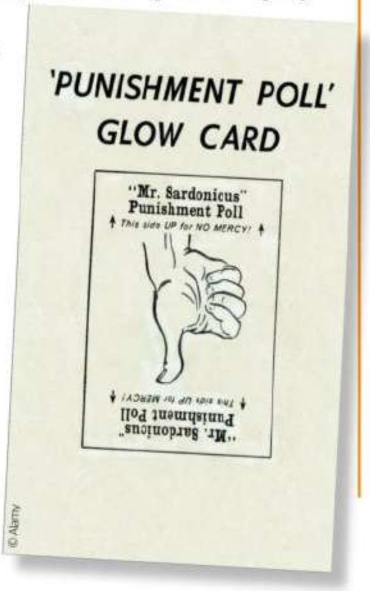
© Alamy

CONNING WITH THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES

1917 In 1917 in Yorkshire Elsie Wright, 16, and Francis Griffiths, nine, produced numerous photographs of what appeared to be fairies. Investigated by members of the Theosophical occult movement, they claimed them to be authentic and proof of vast metaphysical changes in the earth. Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle published *The Coming Of The Fairies*, a nonfiction tome in which he speculated upon what the results would be "if we have actually proved the existence... of a population which may be as numerous as the human race, which pursues its own strange life in its own strange way". Unfortunately, he died before the truth was revealed. The fairies were in fact beautifully drawn cardboard cutouts that the girls had made and intricately staged before photographing them.

MANIPULATING MOVIEGOERS

1961 Film producer William Castle was known as the 'King of Gimmicks' and in the late 1950s and early 1960s produced a string of low-budget horror films, each with its own unique marketing ploy. For his 1961 film *Mr Sardonicus*, in which the titular evil villain's face is twisted into a maniacal grin after seeing his father's corpse, Castle came up with an equally maniacal plot. Towards the end of the film, a break was taken and the audience was given voting slips as Castle himself appeared onscreen and asked if they wished to see Sardonicus saved, or see him meet a cruel fate. Except evidence suggests, despite Castle's claims to the contrary, that only one ending was shot. Believing that audiences would continuously vote to see the villain meet a horrific fate, Castle had created the elaborate trick.



'PUNISHMENT POLL'
GLOW CARD

"Mr. Sardonicus"
Punishment Poll
This side UP for NO MERCY!

This side UP for MERCY!
Punishment Poll
"Mr. Sardonicus"

© Alamy

THE IMPOSTERESS RABBIT BREEDER

1726 In September 1726 near Guildford, Surrey, 25-year-old Mary Toft went into labour. Having miscarried the previous month, this was something of a surprise, but that would be nothing compared to the shock as Toft proceeded to give birth to a rabbit and numerous other animal parts. The story quickly circulated and Toft became a national sensation. A number of physicians and doctors travelled to examine her, and even the king himself took an interest in her case, moving her to London for further examination. Doubt soon began to spread, however, as hay and soil were found on some of the animals. After being threatened with painful surgery by physician Sir Richard Manningham, Toft confessed to having placed the dead rabbit inside herself.

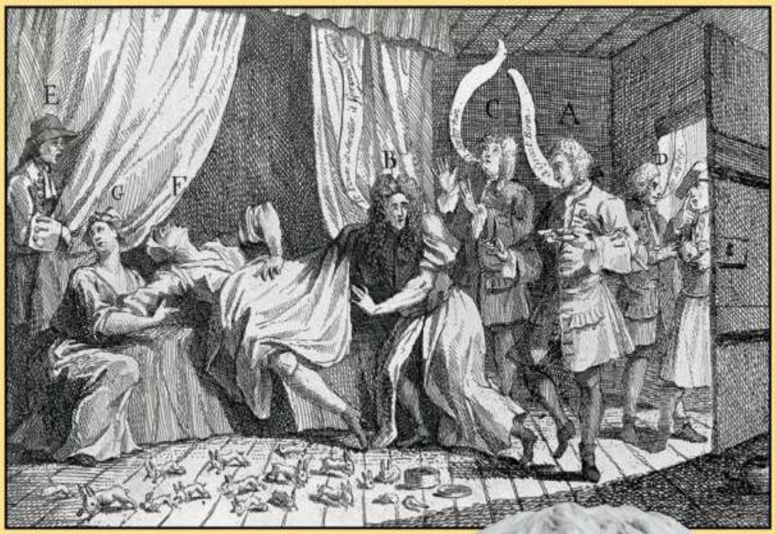
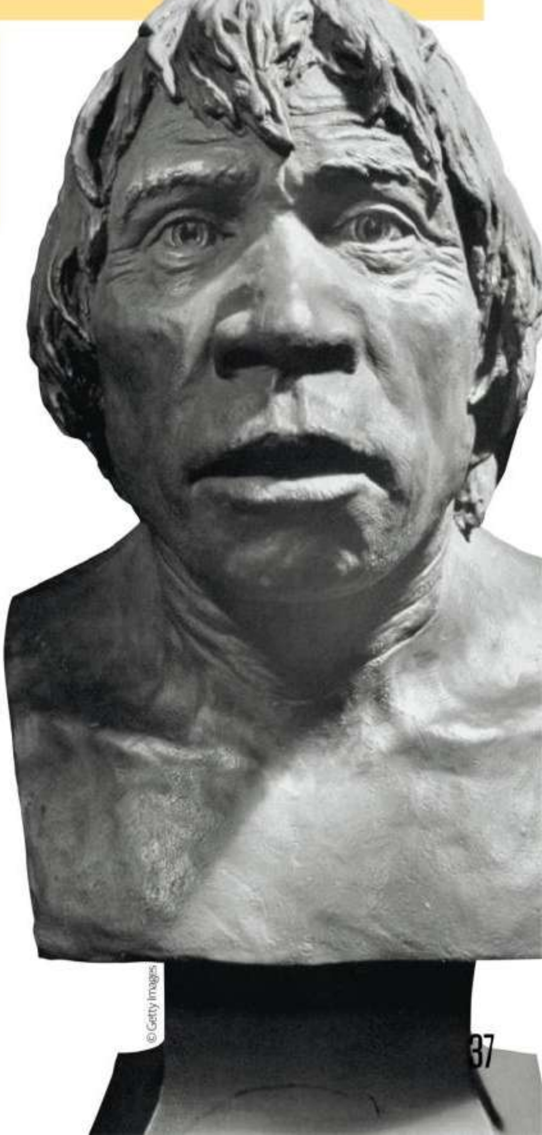


Image source: wiki/Wellcome collection

PRACTICAL JOKING WITH THE PILTDOWN MAN

1912 In 1912, archaeologist Charles Dawson discovered pieces of a human skull in gravel beds in Piltdown, Sussex. As he excavated further, he found even more, including a non-human looking jawbone, but with teeth that had been worn down in a classically human way. The theory that was widely speculated was that this all pointed to an ancestor who'd lived some 500,000 years ago, a missing link. Further sites and finds were discovered in 1913 and 1914 but it was not until the 1950s that the hoax began to unravel. Examining the bones, researchers realised they had been stained to match the surrounding earth. Recent research shows that the bones may have originated in Borneo, and X-rays reveal that human teeth had been artificially inserted into an orangutan jaw.



© Getty Images

BLUFFING A BALLOON FLIGHT

1844 Despite being famous as the writer of horror fiction, including the poem *The Raven* and stories such as *The Masque Of The Red Death*, Edgar Allan Poe also published six hoaxes in his lifetime. The most successful of these was The Great Balloon Hoax of 1844, published in an article for the *New York Sun*. In an entirely fictional narrative Poe announced that the famous (and real) balloonist Monck Mason had flown across the Atlantic in 75 hours. Supposedly on the day of publication, Poe stood on the steps of the newspaper's building and yelled that the story was a hoax - all in vain.

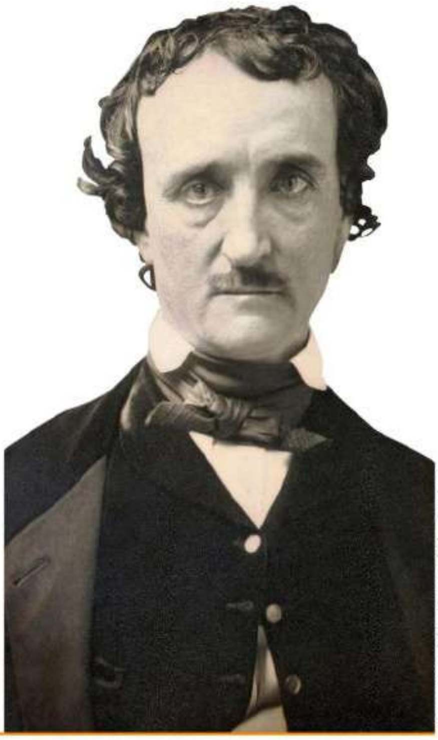


Image source: wiki/Yann Forget and Adam Cuerden

ENTERPRISING EROTICA

1969 In 1966, journalist Mike McGrady was sitting in a bar with several of his colleagues and lamenting over the state of the current literary scene. He was particularly enraged by popular books such as Harold Robbins' *The Adventurers* and Jacquelene Susann's *Valley Of The Dolls*. After ridiculing such pulp erotica, McGrady had the ingenious idea that as a team they could write one. Each penned a single chapter of what they joked would be a 'best-selling' novel, except none of them realised just how best-selling. The resulting parody book, *Naked Came The Stranger*, has to date sold some 400,000 copies and was turned into a film in 1975.

Naked
Came
The
Stranger

© Getty Images

NAUGHTY NIXON'S APRIL FOOLS

1992 Following the Watergate scandal, President Richard Nixon, faced with an ongoing impeachment process, resigned from office. In successive decades the chances of him ever returning to the political stage must have seemed slim. However, in 1992 listeners to the radio programme *Talk Of The Nation* were horrified when the former president appeared to take to the airwaves declaring his comeback, defiantly stating, "I never did anything wrong and I won't do it again." Furious listeners called in to let Nixon know that they weren't going to give him that chance. Of course, it wasn't Nixon on the radio show at all - it was the comedian Rich Little.

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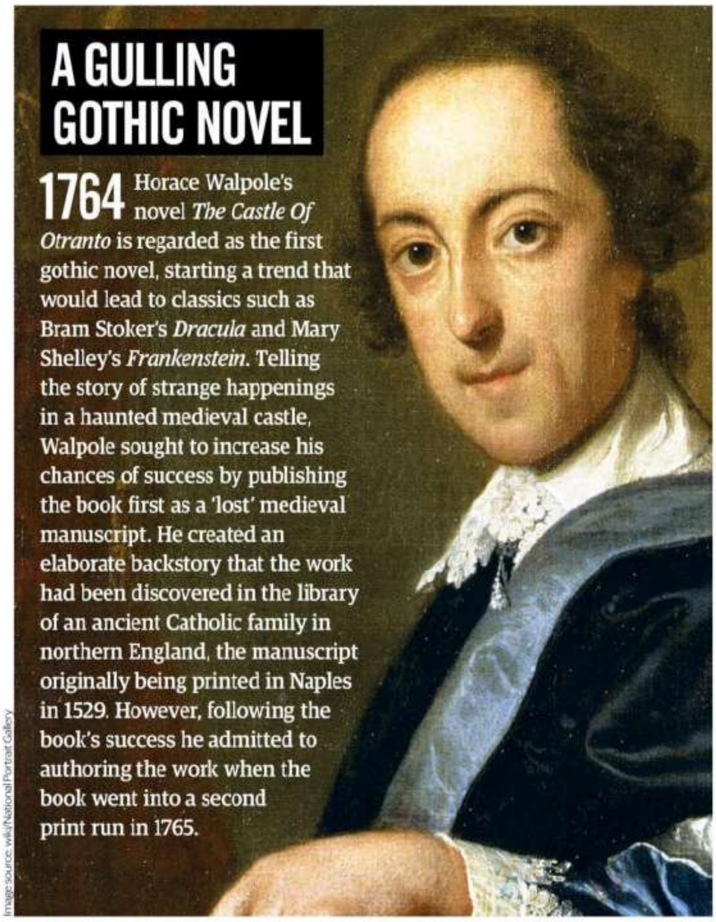


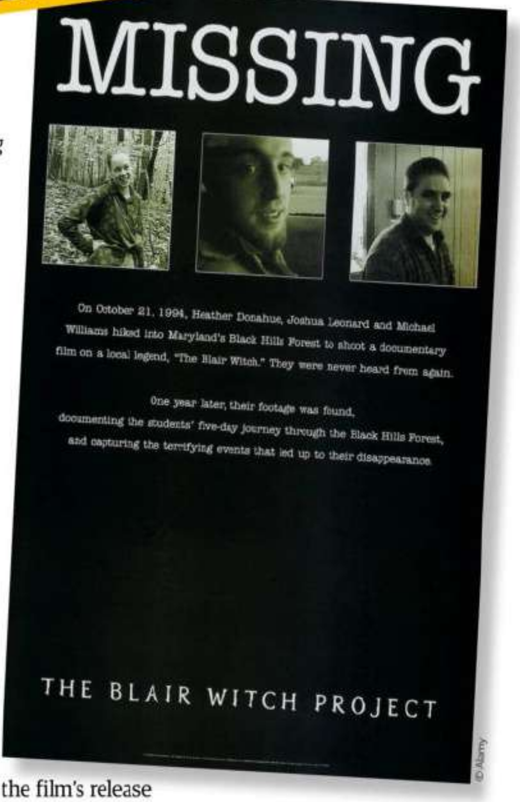
Image source: wiki/National Portrait Gallery

A GULLING GOTHIC NOVEL

1764 Horace Walpole's novel *The Castle Of Otranto* is regarded as the first gothic novel, starting a trend that would lead to classics such as Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Telling the story of strange happenings in a haunted medieval castle, Walpole sought to increase his chances of success by publishing the book first as a 'lost' medieval manuscript. He created an elaborate backstory that the work had been discovered in the library of an ancient Catholic family in northern England, the manuscript originally being printed in Naples in 1529. However, following the book's success he admitted to authoring the work when the book went into a second print run in 1765.

DECEITFUL DEMONOLOGY

1999 Alongside the likes of *The Exorcist* (1973), *The Shining* (1980) and *Halloween* (1978), *The Blair Witch Project* is renowned as one of the most terrifying motion pictures ever made. Not only that, but the independent horror film managed to make over 10,000-times its budget at the box office. When initially released, however, the film was the subject of an ingenious marketing campaign that claimed the footage was real. The key to this was a website that delved into the history of the titular witch and included snippets and outtakes as '"lost documentary footage". As the film's release approached, the SyFy channel aired a mockumentary entitled *The Curse Of The Blair Witch*, focussing on the fictional myth of the film. The creative hoax paid off and crowds flocked to cinemas.



On October 21, 1994, Heather Donahue, Joshua Leonard and Michael Williams hiked into Maryland's Black Hills Forest to shoot a documentary film on a local legend, "The Blair Witch." They were never heard from again.

One year later, their footage was found, documenting the students' five-day journey through the Black Hills Forest, and capturing the terrifying events that led up to their disappearance

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THE SUN AND THE MOON MADE READERS BUFFOONS

1835 One night in 1835, astronomer Sir John Herschel was observing the moon when he saw a wondrous landscape full of mythical creatures such as unicorns, bat people and two-legged beavers – except of course he didn't. *The New York Sun*, a popular penny paper, had completely invented the stories. Dr Andrew Grant, the supposed author of the articles, was made up and they were probably designed to poke fun at the outlandish speculation on extraterrestrial life that was popular at the time. Sales soared, however, and when the *Sun* was finally forced to admit that the entire thing had been a hoax readers were amused and continued to buy the paper anyway.

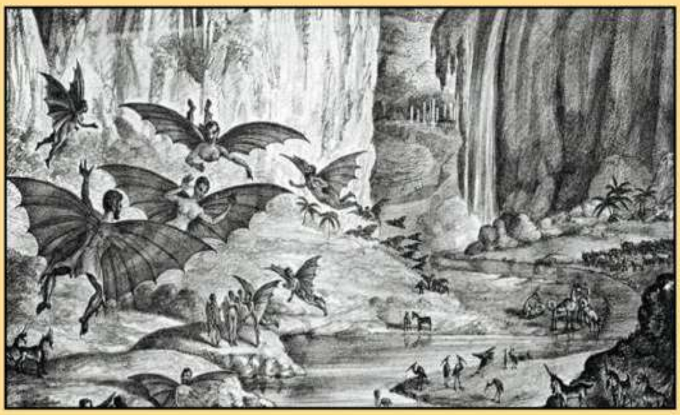
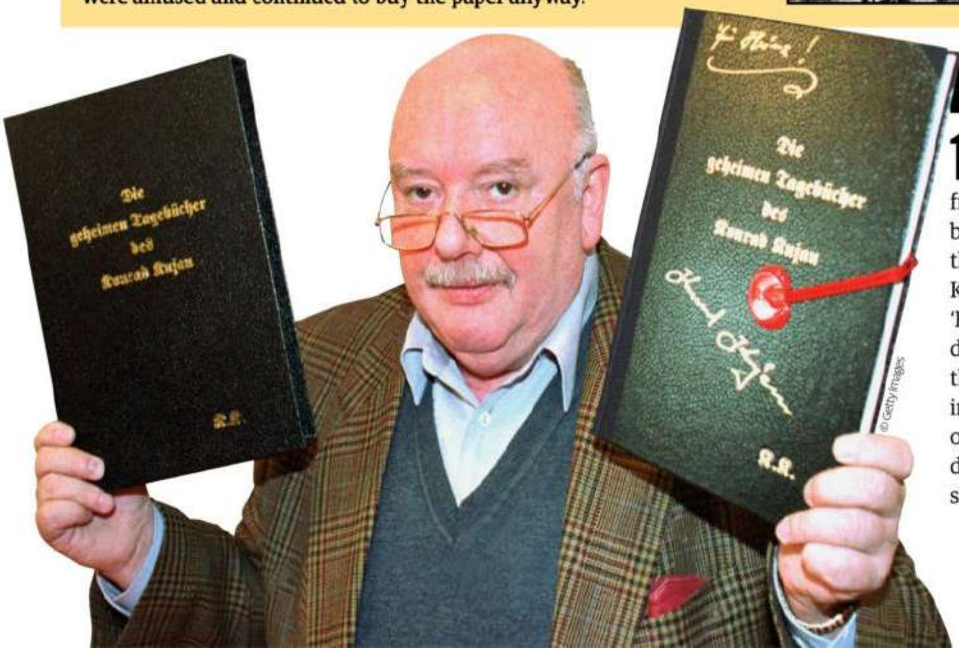


Image source: wiki/Museum of Hoaxes


Die geheimen Tagebücher des Konrad Kujau
K.K.
Die geheimen Tagebücher des Konrad Kujau
K.K.

© Getty Images

HOAXING WITH HITLER

1983 In 1983, Germany was rocked when *Stern* magazine announced it was to publish extracts from Adolf Hitler's 'lost' personal diaries, despite there being no record of any diaries having existed. Of course, they hadn't, the diaries were actually the work of forger Konrad Kujau. Even the mislabelling of the diaries as 'FH' instead of 'AH', due to confusing gothic lettering, didn't stop Kujau convincing the *Stern* editorial team that they were genuine. Over a two-year period beginning in 1981 the magazine spent 9.3 million Deutsche Marks on 60 volumes. Kujau was jailed when the diaries were discovered to be a forgery and the resulting scandal sent shockwaves through the German press that last to this day.

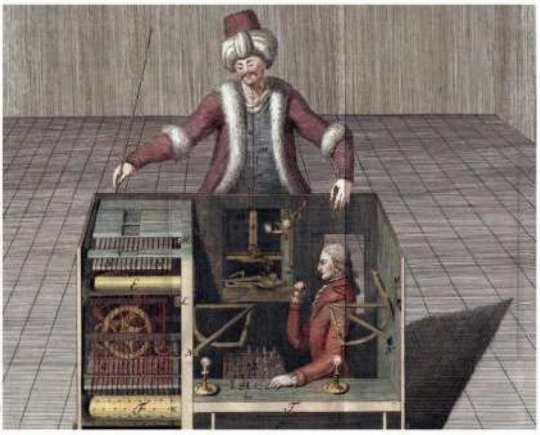


Image source: wiki/Humboldt University Library

ARTFUL AUTOMATONS

1769 This chess-whizz automaton made its debut in the court of Empress Maria Theresa of Hungary in 1769. The creation of inventor Wolfgang von Kempelen, 'The Turk' was a dummy in colourful costume, seated behind a large wooden cabinet that was filled with a vast array of cogs and machinery. Challenging many of the court's noblemen, it beat them all and became a sensation. For successive years it beat all opponents until Kempelen's death in 1804. However, this was not the end of The Turk and new owner, German showman Johann Maelzel, continued to tour the device - the automaton even beating Napoleon Bonaparte (shaking its head when he attempted to cheat). Eventually, following Maelzel's death, the ruse was discovered. The cogs and machinery extended only halfway and behind these a skilled, and short, chess player could wedge himself inside. The Turk was assigned to a museum and largely forgotten until 1854 when it was destroyed in a fire. It was claimed that as the flames consumed it The Turk's voice box could be heard wailing "Check!"

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SWINDLING WITH SAITAPHERNES

1896 On 1 April 1896, the Louvre Museum in France paid 200,000 Francs for a gold tiara linked to the third-century BCE Scythian King Saitaphernes - failing to note the obvious dents made by a hammer and signs of soldering. It had in fact been made by Russian goldsmith Israel Rouchomovsky for a client who wanted it for an archaeologist 'friend'. In 1903 Rouchomovsky travelled to Paris to prove it was his work by demonstrating to officials from the Louvre how he did it, recreating a portion of the tiara on sheet of gold as they watched. Rarely displayed, the tiara has become a warning sign to museums the world over to be cautious when acquiring artefacts.

THE SENSATIONAL SPAGHETTI HARVEST

1957 In 1957, the BBC's *Panorama* programme presented a story about the tradition of spaghetti harvesting in Switzerland. Viewers watched as Richard Dimbleby (the famous commentator who'd served the same role during the coronation of Elizabeth II four years earlier) narrated the story of the tradition over shots of young Swiss maids plucking ripe spaghetti from trees. Dimbleby compared the Swiss industry to that of the Italians and even spoke of the meddlesome 'spaghetti weevil'. A respected news programme, no one questioned the authenticity of *Panorama*'s broadcast until they registered the date - 1 April.

© Getty Images

Image source: wiki/Pictify

THE CARDIFF GIANT

1860 On 16 October 1869, a group of stone workers uncovered something strange - the body of a vast giant. The story quickly became a sensation and people flocked to see the bizarre find, with land owner William Newell charging them 25 cents each. There were numerous theories over what the creature was, but the most popular stated it was without doubt the mummified remains of a giant. This didn't seem too far-fetched, after all the *Bible* states in *Genesis 6:4*, that "there were giants in the earth in those days" and the find was seen as concrete proof of this. The debate over whether the words of the *Bible* should be taken literally was at its peak, as science and religion frequently clashed. The giant was in fact a fraud concocted by George Hull. Working with Newell, the atheist Hull had devised the scheme to embarrass those who took the *Bible* literally. The hoax was discovered when the clumsy chisel marks were finally noticed.

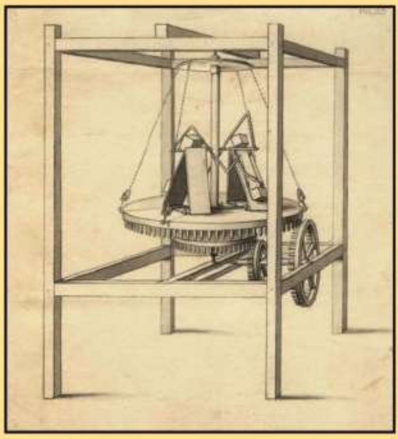


Image source: wiki/masshist.org

PRANKING PERPETUAL MOTION

1812 In 1812, inventor Charles Redheffer unveiled what he termed the "perpetual motion machine". The idea of a machine caught in continuous motion, not requiring the use of additional power, is one which fascinated 19th century engineers - despite the obvious contradictions of the laws of physics. When Redheffer claimed to have invented such a device, numerous parties were fooled. But when his machine was displayed in New York, engineer Robert Fulton noticed the gears wobbled slightly. Realising there was a belt hidden by fake support beams, Fulton discovered an old man hidden inside, turning a crank. Furious visitors destroyed the machine and Redheffer fled.

CONNING CASABLANCA

1982 Considered by many to be one of the greatest films of all time, *Casablanca*'s witty and intelligent script became the subject of a hoax when literary trickster Chuck Ross decided to resubmit the script to contemporary film studios. Changing the title to that of the play, *Everybody Comes To Rick's*, he sent it to 217 agencies. The script was rejected by 90 for being unsolicited, 33 for being recognised as *Casablanca*, and by 40 for reasons such as "too much dialogue, not enough exposition, the storyline was weak". Perhaps the most damning rejection was one which suggested the young writer "come up with an action adventure type of thing, I mean T&A, I'm talking tits and ass".

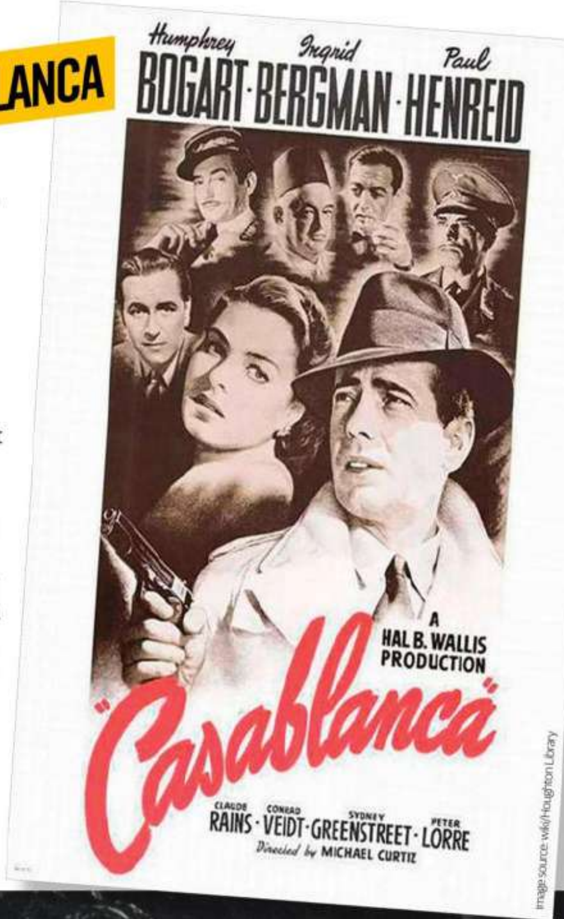


Image source: wiki/Houghton Library

WELLES' WAR OF THE WORLDS

1938 On the night of 30 October 1938, Martians invaded the United States. Not really, of course, or this would be a very different magazine - it was just a radio drama by the young Orson Welles. At 23, Welles had already made a name for himself as an innovative voice in the theatre with his Mercury Theatre troupe. Taking them to the airwaves, he devised the clever notion of staging HG Wells' *War Of The Worlds* as if it was a live radio news broadcast. While the level of the resultant panic has been debated, Wells was forced to publicly apologise for the stunt. No matter, as a result he was offered a contract with RKO and made *Citizen Kane*.

Image source: wiki/Dallas Dispatch Journal

FERROVIE

© Getty Images

VICTOR FAILMEZGER
ROME
CITY IN TERROR
THE NAZI OCCUPATION 1943–44

Rome: City In Terror
By Victor Failmezger
is out in September from Osprey

NAZI TERROR IN ROME

Author Victor Failmezger tells us the story of Nazi occupied Rome and the heroes who defied their rule

Written by Callum McKelvie

The tale of occupied Rome is not one of World War II's better-known episodes and is rarely spoken of in the same breath as the harrowing stories of Paris and Warsaw. Yet this doesn't mean it's any less fascinating. In fact, the story of Rome during the war can be considered unique. The position of the Italians initially as members of the Axis meant that the city's occupation had to be handled with a level of care. As a result, it was unlike any other territory taken by the Nazis, and its story involves brave partisans, Allied POWs and the heart of the Catholic Church. Victor Failmezger, author of *Rome: City In Terror*, reveals how it lived through nine months of Nazi rule.

How did you become interested in the story of Rome during the Nazi occupation?

As a kid growing up in New Jersey, I was fascinated by movies about ancient Rome. This was the period of sword and sandal movies and I think I saw every single one! In 1968, after my third year at university, I was lucky enough to go to Europe and, of course, I had to go to Italy. In 1970, during the Vietnam War, I joined the US Navy and was fortunate enough to be stationed at NATO in Naples. It was there I met my wife and we made multiple visits to Rome, both of us falling in love with the city. Later, I was assigned as the Assistant US Naval Attaché in Rome and got to see the city as few do - the inside of palaces and embassies, etc. The actual story was suggested by somebody that we met briefly in Naples, almost 50 years ago. Contacting me out of the blue he explained that he had been the secretary and driver to one of the key figures of the Rome Allied (ex-POW) Escape Line, Brother Robert. He felt Brother Robert's story needed to be told. As I started doing the research, it became obvious that the history of World War II Rome is virtually unknown outside of Italy and so the book expanded.

What was Italy's role in WWII prior to the book's opening in 1943?

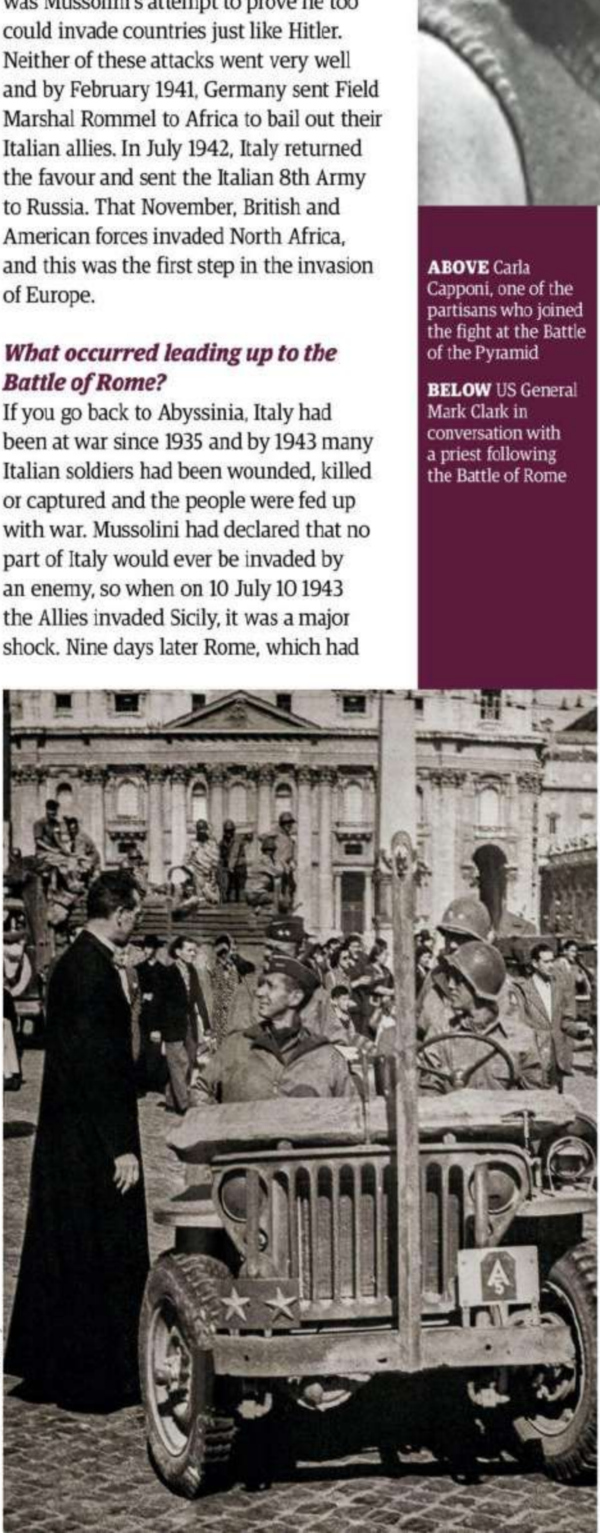
After Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1935, he was condemned by much of the international community for the use of chemical weapons against Ethiopian tribesmen. The next year Italy, along with the Germans, sent men and materiel to aid the Spanish Fascist General Franco during the Spanish Civil War. In 1939, Italy and Germany signed the Pact of Steel and pledged eternal friendship and mutual aid. However, when Germany went to war in September 1939 Mussolini held back until after Dunkirk, when it appeared that Germany was winning. Italy then declared war against the United Kingdom and in September 1940 sent an air force contingent to support Germany in the Battle of Britain. Later that same month, Italy invaded British-held Egypt from Libya and in October they invaded Greece. This was Mussolini's attempt to prove he too could invade countries just like Hitler. Neither of these attacks went very well and by February 1941, Germany sent Field Marshal Rommel to Africa to bail out their Italian allies. In July 1942, Italy returned the favour and sent the Italian 8th Army to Russia. That November, British and American forces invaded North Africa, and this was the first step in the invasion of Europe.

What occurred leading up to the Battle of Rome?

If you go back to Abyssinia, Italy had been at war since 1935 and by 1943 many Italian soldiers had been wounded, killed or captured and the people were fed up with war. Mussolini had declared that no part of Italy would ever be invaded by an enemy, so when on 10 July 10 1943 the Allies invaded Sicily, it was a major shock. Nine days later Rome, which had previously been considered off limits due to the presence of the Pope and the Vatican, was bombed for the first time and the people were devastated. Mussolini was not in the city; he was meeting with Hitler in Northern Italy and when an aide ran in and told him of the bombing he was stunned. On 25 July Mussolini's Fascist Grand Council handed him a vote of 'no confidence'. The next day the king had him arrested and appointed Marshal Badoglio as prime minister. Badoglio immediately began to seek a separate peace with the Allies. On 8 September an armistice was announced and the next day the Anglo-American Fifth Army landed at Salerno without any Italian resistance, but not so from the German defenders.

ABOVE Carla Capponi, one of the partisans who joined the fight at the Battle of the Pyramid

BELOW US General Mark Clark in conversation with a priest following the Battle of Rome



3x © Alamy

So what happened during the Battle of Rome?

By spring 1943 the Germans were well aware that Italy was growing tired of the war and they believed the king was looking for ways to make a separate peace. In response they began moving troops into Austria (then a part of Germany). Later, following the Allied invasion of Sicily the Germans increased the movement of troops into Italy to repel the Allies. At the same time Marshall Badoglio and the king started to bring back Italian troops from Yugoslavia and France as they were concerned about a German invasion should they make peace with the Allies. Immediately before the Battle of Rome, the Germans were outnumbered 49,000 to 70,000 but they positioned their troops very well, taking over a major airfield and blocking off fuel dumps, effectively incapacitating Italian mobile forces. On 9 September the Germans disarmed Italian troops and in a matter of 24 hours nearly destroyed the entire Italian Army. The main battle for Rome was called the Battle of the Pyramid. A group of ragtag units and more than 400 civilians came armed with shotguns - some even broke into museums and stole World War I rifles to fight the German invasion. One civilian even took a city tram to the battle!

Carla Capponi had an interesting role in the battle. Can you tell us more about her?

Carla Capponi, a participant in the Battle of the Pyramid, was a university student and you can imagine a stereotypical 1940s young woman - very prim and proper - but when there was a call for Italians to defend the city she defied her mother and ran towards the sound of the guns. Through her university connections, she became friends with male and female members of a budding partisan movement after the Germans took over the city. Capponi even participated in attacking German vehicles in the streets and assassinated a German courier. After the war she became Italy's first female senator. She's just one example of the many strong female personalities that feature prominently in the book.

Who were some of the key Nazi figures in the occupation?

The face of the Gestapo and the SS in Rome was Herbert Kappler. His background was fairly typical of lower-

Image source: National Archives and Records Administration

middle class Nazis. He had attended a technical college and was a trained electrician. Then he joined the Nazi Party and eventually became a policeman, and was picked to go to Rome as a police liaison officer. Married, he and his wife had adopted a Lebensborn child: blond and blue-eyed. Apparently he didn't get along with his wife and he had a series of mistresses. When the Nazis took over Rome, he expanded his organization and his rule became law. The number-two man in Rome was Erich Priebke. Well before the war, he'd kicked around Europe and worked in hotels, before becoming an early member of the Nazi Party. He was sent to Rome as he spoke good Italian, and his assignment was to run the Gestapo prison and torture chamber at Via Tasso. He got so into it that he became an expert torturer. After the war, he escaped to Argentina but was eventually tracked down by Sam Donaldson, a US TV newsman, in 1995. He was extradited back to Italy and put on trial for his participation in the murder of 335 Italian men and boys as a reprisal for a partisan attack that had killed 35 SS policemen.

ABOVE Partisans marching across one of the Tiber bridges in 1944

BELOW British and American POWs being marched through the streets of Rome following a failed raid

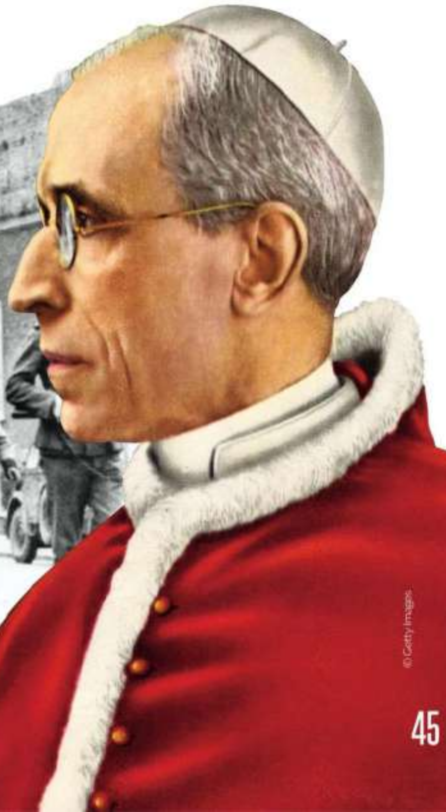
BELOW-RIGHT Pope Pius XII

How typical was the occupation of Rome in regards to other Nazi occupied cities?

The occupation of Rome was unique, it was not like Paris or Warsaw. It remained the official capital of Mussolini's newly established Italian Social Republic, the so-called Salò Republic. It had to be treated differently. The SS presence in Rome was smaller than you would have expected for a major occupied city and the reason was that Kappler could rely on the Fascist Italian police organizations to do much of his dirty work. Additionally Rome, with its unique art works and history, had a special position - even Hitler felt that it shouldn't be destroyed! Unlike a lot of other cities, initially there were no open reprisals despite repeated partisan attacks. There were incredible food shortages, curfews became stringent and citizens were rounded up to work in factories or to work as labourers on the fortifications which stretched across Italy. Jews too were rounded up and deported; indeed about a month after the city was captured over a 1,000 Jews were sent to Auschwitz and only 17 of them survived.

What was the role of the Pope during the occupation?

The Pope found himself caught in a very difficult position. Whatever the church did it was bound to be criticized. The church therefore adopted a policy of attesismo which means 'watchful waiting'. Pope Pius XII was very afraid that German Catholics and those Catholics in occupied countries would suffer persecution at the hands of the Nazis. I believe he really did hate the Nazis but he was also afraid of what he termed 'Godless communism'. The Pope had been the Papal Nuncio in Germany and he had seen the excesses of communism during the Munich-Soviet of 1919. He took his role as the Bishop of Rome seriously, and through his subordinates he turned a blind eye to escaped Allied POWs and others seeking sanctuary from the Nazis in the city. He even had the convents of Rome opened to the male relatives of people seeking shelter there. The Pope also opened food kitchens and had convoys organized to bring food into the occupied city. He also expanded membership in his personal Papal Guard. At the start of the Nazi occupation there were roughly 100 guardsmen, and by the end of the occupation there were 4,000. This was important because enrolment in the Papal Guard came with status as a citizen of Vatican City and so protected them from arrest by the Nazis. Many Jews, politicians and other civilians were thus saved from deportation. I have come to the conclusion that the Pope really believed he would be more effective if he continued his work quietly. There are many who think he didn't do enough but I believe he did as much as he could.



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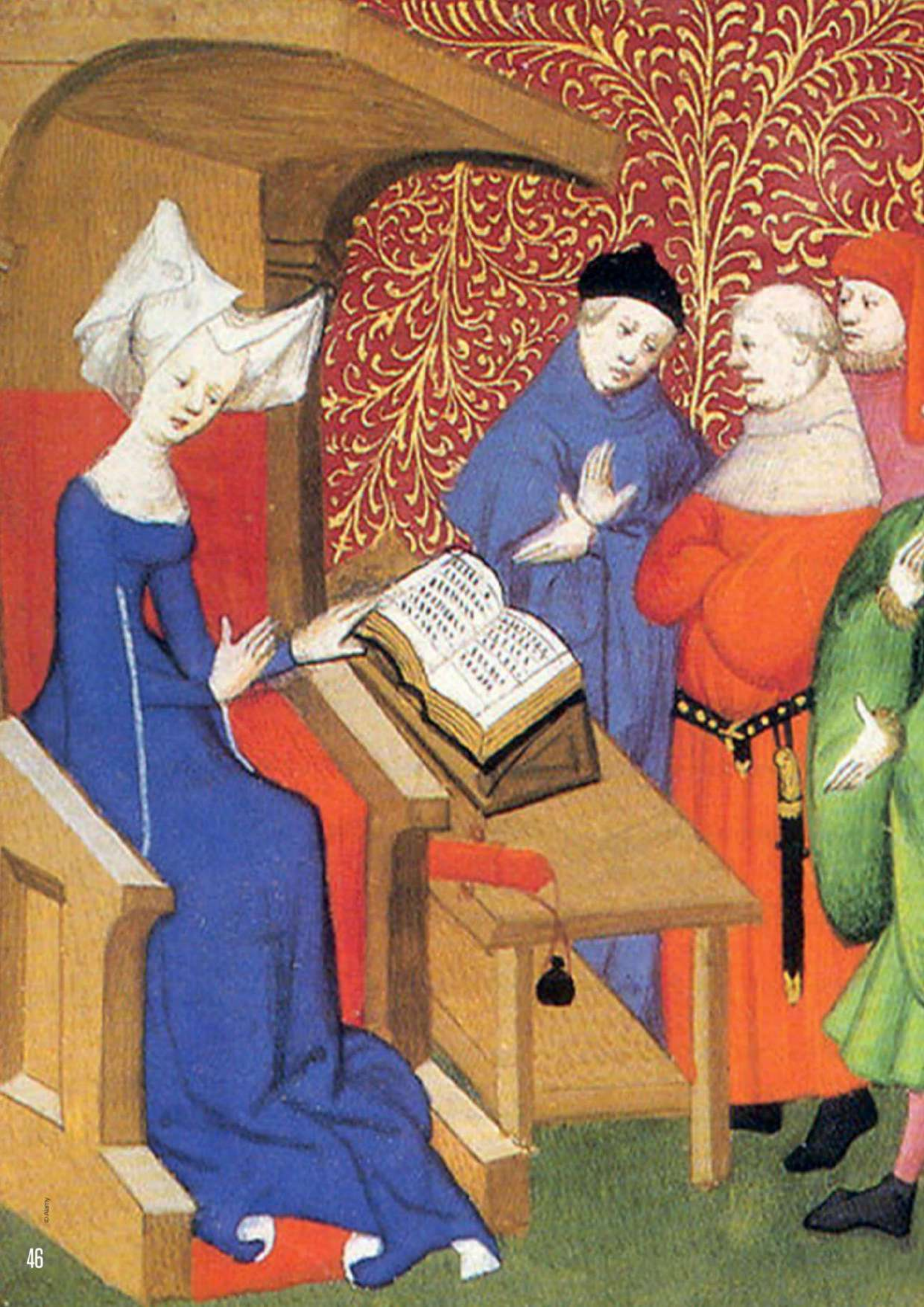

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Defender of Women

Christine de Pizan, Europe's first professional female writer, used her words to fight the misogyny of her time

Written by Jessica Leggett

Christine de Pizan was undoubtedly one of the most revolutionary writers in history. She broke the mould at a time when both society and literature were dominated by men, building a career that was unprecedented for women in the Middle Ages. In the words of writer and philosopher Simone de Beauvoir, Pizan was the first woman to "take up her pen in defence of her sex".

Pizan was born in Venice in 1364. Her father was Thomas de Pizan, a councillor for the Republic of Venice and a physician, but unfortunately we don't know who her mother was, other than that she was an aristocratic woman. When she was four-years-old, Pizan and her family moved to Paris after her father was appointed the court astrologer to King Charles V – she would remain in France for the rest of her life.

We know that Pizan's father encouraged her to learn, giving his daughter the same education as her two younger brothers, a highly unusual decision for the time. In her most famous work, *The Book Of The City Of Ladies*, the character Lady Rectitude tells her, "Your father, who was a natural philosopher, was not of the opinion that women grow worse by becoming educated."

On the other hand, Pizan's mother believed her daughter should stick to the traditional, domestic education of women, as Lady Rectitude reminds her: "Your mother, however, who held the usual feminine ideas on the matter, wanted you to spend your time spinning... prevented you from making more progress and going deeper into science and learning in your childhood."

It is thought that with her father's position at court, Pizan would have had access to the king's royal library and therefore would have been able to read the extensive collection of books there. At the age of 15, she married Etienne du Castel, a court secretary. The couple had a happy marriage and they had three children together, with Pizan's duties as a mother taking her away from her studying.

Sadly, her world turned upside down when her father died in 1388 and the following year, Etienne succumbed to the plague after a decade together. Suddenly a young widow, it was up to Pizan to look after her three children (unfortunately, one of her two daughters died in childhood), her mother and niece.

Despite her education, Pizan was never taught how to deal with her husband's finances and so she found herself in an uphill battle, fighting lawsuits for over a decade in an attempt to get her rightful inheritance. Her experience would eventually inspire her to write *The Treasure Of The City Of Ladies* in 1405, a manual which included advice on various topics – such as managing a husband's affairs – for women of all social classes.

While it was normal and expected of young widows such as herself to remarry, Pizan refused to do so and instead sought refuge in her education and writing. She wrote poems lamenting the loss of her husband and her widowhood, and produced ballads about courtly love, a popular literary tradition of the time that focused on chivalry and illicit romantic relationships between ladies and knights.

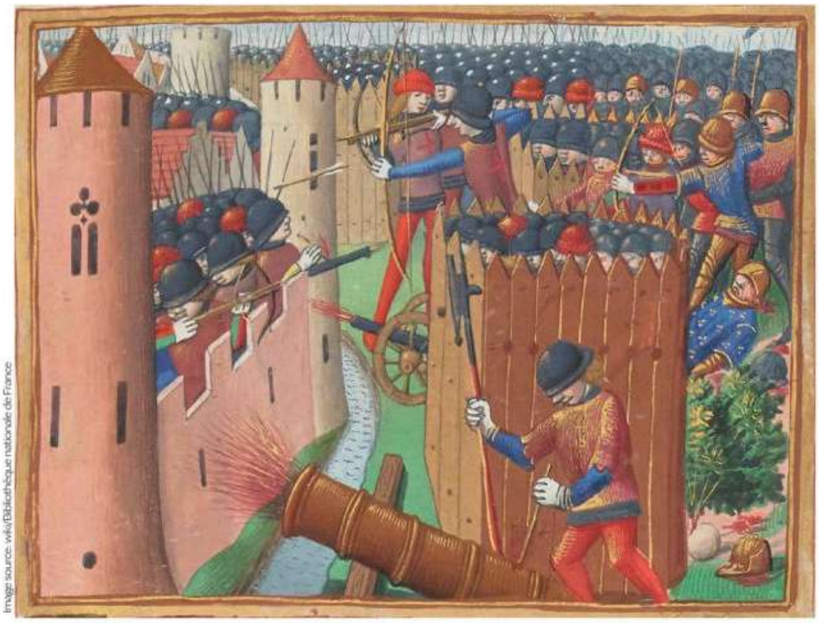


Image source: wiki/Bibliothèque nationale de France

ABOVE Pizan was inspired to write about Joan of Arc after her victory at the Siege of Orléans

In fact, Pizan wrote so many of them that she published her first book, *One Hundred Ballads*, in 1393. The book was received warmly at the French court and as a result she started receiving offers of financial patronage that enabled her to successfully earn a living from her writing. In one of her later works, *Le Livre De La Mutacion De Fortune*, Christine would comment "de femelle devins masle" – that she had transformed from a woman into a man in order to support her family.

Among her many patrons were King Henry IV of England; Louis I, Duke of Orléans; and Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy; who commissioned her to write a biography of his brother, King Charles V, who had died in 1380. Not only did she dedicate and present her works to those who supported her financially, but it is believed that Pizan also produced some of them in her own scriptorium in Paris. It's thought that she personally oversaw the creation of these beautifully illustrated manuscripts and she even features in some of the images.

Although her career had begun with tales of courtly love, it did not stay that way for long. In medieval society, women were subordinate to men, they had no legal independence (unless they were widowed) and for the majority of them their responsibilities were confined to the domestic sphere. The belief that women were inherently weak and defective was reinforced by popular histories and texts written by learned authors. Pizan, disappointed and frustrated with the "many wicked insults about women and their behaviour", wanted to change this narrative.

In 1399, she released her *L'Épistre Au Dieu D'amours*, a defence of women against the prevalent misogyny in the widely popular 13th century allegorical poem *Roman De La Rose*. The poem, first written by Guillaume de Lorris and then continued by Jean de Meun, portrayed women as greedy, manipulative and lustful seducers. Arguing that the poem was deeply misogynistic and degrading, Christine expanded on her criticism with a direct attack on de Meun and his poem with her book, *The Tale Of The Rose*, which was published in 1402.

Two years later, she criticised *Les Lamentations De Matheolus* by Matheolus, a French cleric and poet. In his work, Matheolus complained about women and argued that marriage made men miserable. For Pizan, this was an example of the frequent attacks made on women and marriage in support of clerical celibacy. It was while reading Matheolus' *Lamentations* that Pizan became inspired to write her greatest and most famous piece of work, the aforementioned *City Of Ladies*.

In the *City Of Ladies*, Pizan serves as the narrator and discusses how she had been blinded by the learned authors whose misogyny had convinced her that women were indeed inferior: "I could hardly find a book on morals where, even before I had read it in its entirety, I did not find several chapters or certain sections attacking women, no matter who the author was... I relied more on the judgment of others than on what I myself felt and knew. I was so transfixed in this line of thinking for such a long time that it seemed as if I were in a stupor."

As she wonders why women have yet to stand up to the accusations that are constantly levelled against them, Pizan is

"This belief that women were inherently weak and defective was reinforced by popular histories and texts written by learned authors"

Pizan's Patrons

Six people who enabled Pizan's brilliant writing career

John, Duke of Berry 1340-1416

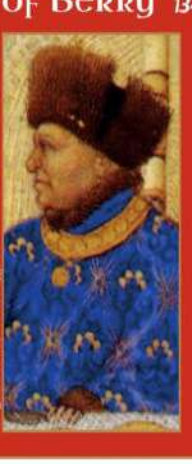


Image source: wiki/Petrusbarbygere

John, a brother of King Charles V, received the first manuscript of *Le Livre Du Chemine De Long Estude*, a dream allegory with political and philosophical themes. She also dedicated her *L'Épistre De La Prison De Vie Humaine* to his daughter Marie, Duchess of Bourbon, whose husband had been captured by the English following the Battle of Agincourt.

King Henry IV of England 1367-1413

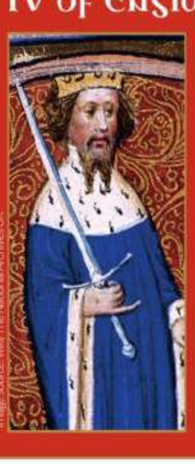


Image source: wiki/The National Archives UK

Just like his predecessor King Richard II, Henry tried to persuade Pizan to move to England and become his court poet, a testament to her talent and reputation. Although she refused his offer, we know that she presented the king with an edition of *L'Épistre De Othéa A Hector*, one of her most popular works, in 1404.

Isabeau of Bavaria, Queen of France c.1370-1435

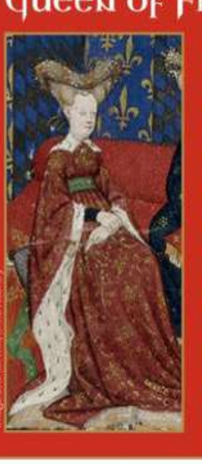
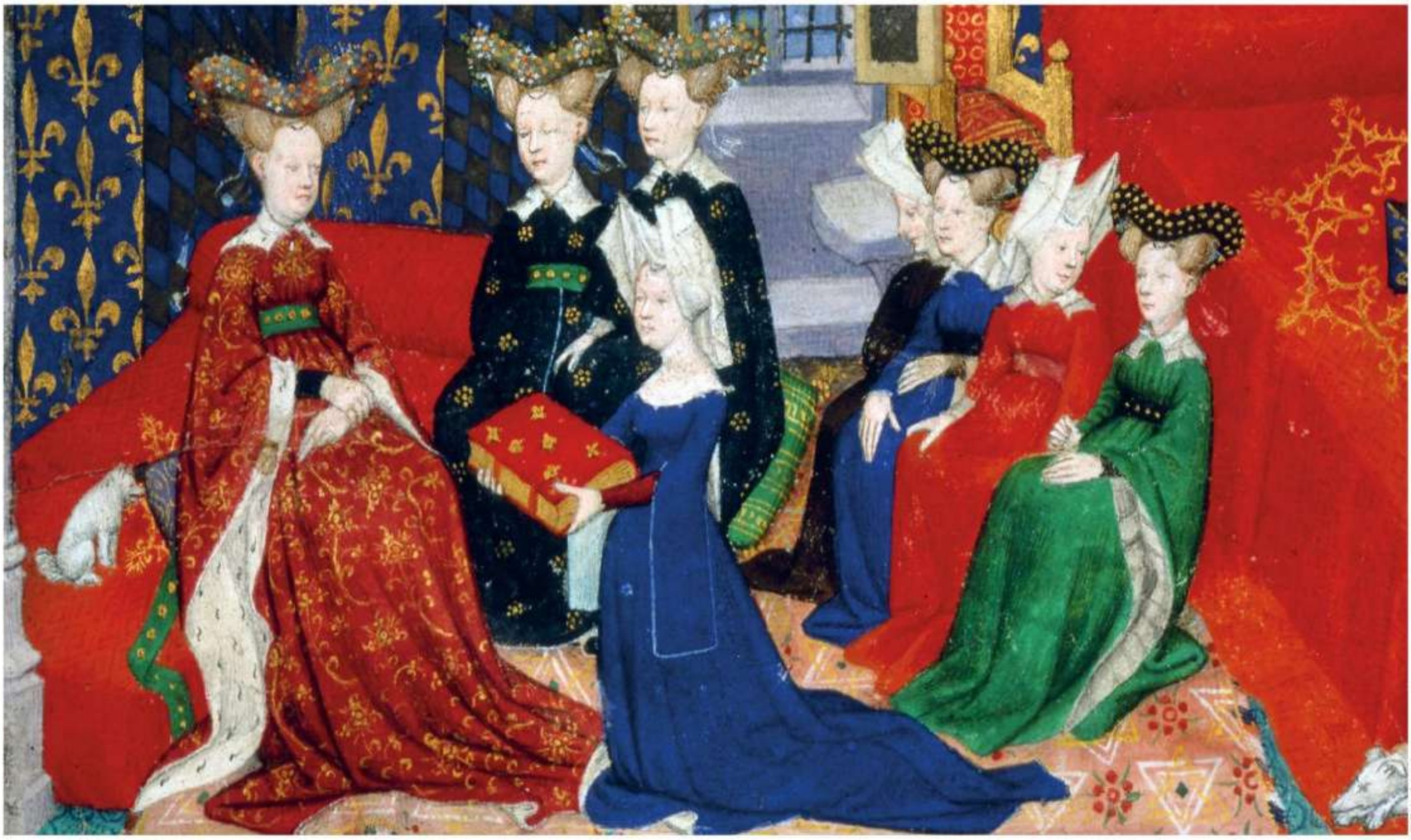


Image source: wiki/British Library

Queen Isabeau is arguably Pizan's most famous patron. With Isabeau acting as regent and Pizan becoming a professional author, these two women held unprecedented positions in medieval France. In 1414, Christine produced *The Book Of The Queen*, her largest manuscript containing a collection of her work, which she dedicated and presented to Isabeau.



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ABOVE Pizan presenting her book to Queen Isabeau, c.1410-1414

joined by three women of virtue - Reason, Rectitude and Justice - who tell her that it's her destiny to challenge this misogynistic treatment of women. With their help, she builds a symbolic city filled with remarkable women from history and recounts their stories, including Sappho; Medea; Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra; Helen of Troy and the Virgin Mary.

Altogether, Pizan includes 165 women in her city who made important contributions to society and are celebrated for being respectable, honourable, faithful and chaste. She uses their stories to dispute the claims made by male authors that women are evil and unfaithful creatures, arguing that "many foolish men have claimed this because it displeased them that women knew more than they did". She also takes the opportunity to advocate for girls to receive the same education as boys, stating, "If it were customary to send little girls to school like boys... they would learn as thoroughly the subtleties of all the arts and sciences."

While de Meun's *Roman De La Rose* criticised and denounced women, Pizan's city was a metaphor for feminine virtue and in her words "a refuge and defence against the various assailants, those ladies who have been abandoned for so long, exposed like a field without a surrounding hedge". With the *City Of Ladies*, she had given women the place in history that they deserved and highlighted the fact that women, including herself, had internalised the prejudice of men.

John the Fearless *1371-1419*

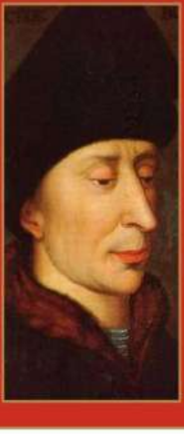


Image source: wiki/Palais des Beaux Arts de Lille

John gave Pizan several payments for her books and he notably paid her to finish the biography of his uncle, King Charles V, which his father Philip the Bold had commissioned before his death. Pizan also dedicated *The Treasure Of The City Of Ladies* to John's daughter, Margaret, Dauphine of France.

Louis I, Duke of Orléans *1372-1407*

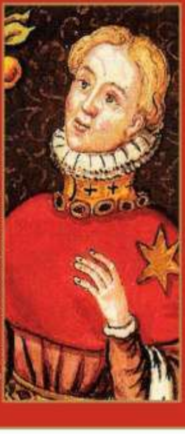
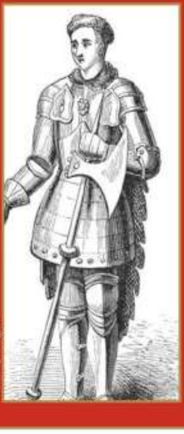


Image source: wiki/Bibliothèque nationale de France

The son of King Charles V and brother of King Charles VI, Louis was one of the members of the French court who took an interest in Pizan's early romantic ballads. She dedicated the first edition of her *L'Épistre De Othéa A Hector* to Louis and he supported her literary career right up until his murder in 1407.

Thomas Montagu, 4th Earl of Salisbury *1388-1428*



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Both the earl and his father, John Montagu, were supporters of Pizan and her work. It is known that he offered her a different form of patronage by taking her young son, Jean, to England and giving him a place in his household. King Henry IV would later move Jean to his own household in an attempt to persuade Pizan to move to England.

Pizan's city was also inspired by Giovanni Boccaccio and his book *On Famous Women*, published in 1374, in which he included the biographies of over 100 illustrious women in history. However, he only praised the women who had lived chaste and obedient lives while criticising those who had public roles, for example as warriors or rulers, and Pizan set out to correct this with her own revised biographies.

Interestingly, Salic Law was introduced in France during the 14th century, which prevented women or anyone born from the female line from inheriting the throne. However, France has a long history of women stepping in to govern the country during the absence or minority of the king. This included Queen Blanche, who acted as regent twice on behalf of her son King Louis IX in the 13th century, and whom Christine declared governed France "so nobly and so prudently that it was never better ruled by any man".

> "Pizan firmly believed that women were equal to men and they should be treated as such"

Pizan's defence of female rulers was even more timely considering that when the *City Of Ladies* was published, Queen Isabeau was acting as regent of France on behalf of her husband, King Charles VI, who suffered with bouts of instability. While the queen found herself caught up in the hostility and power struggles that emerged in the absence of her husband, Pizan supported her and her role as a female regent, including her as one of the 165 women in the *City Of Ladies*.

Pizan's works triggered the 'querelle de femmes', also known as the woman question, an intellectual debate on the nature of women that would carry on into the 18th century. Arguably the starting point for early feminist thinking, the querelle de femmes debated what role women were to play in a society that was inherently patriarchal.

RIGHT The Louvre Palace during the reign of King Charles V

MIDDLE-RIGHT Christine offering a book to one of her patrons, Louis I, Duke of Orléans

FAR-RIGHT An illumination from the *City Of Ladies* depicting Christine with Rectitude, Reason and Justice

OPPOSITE Jean Gerson supported Pizan's criticism of the *Roman De La Rose*

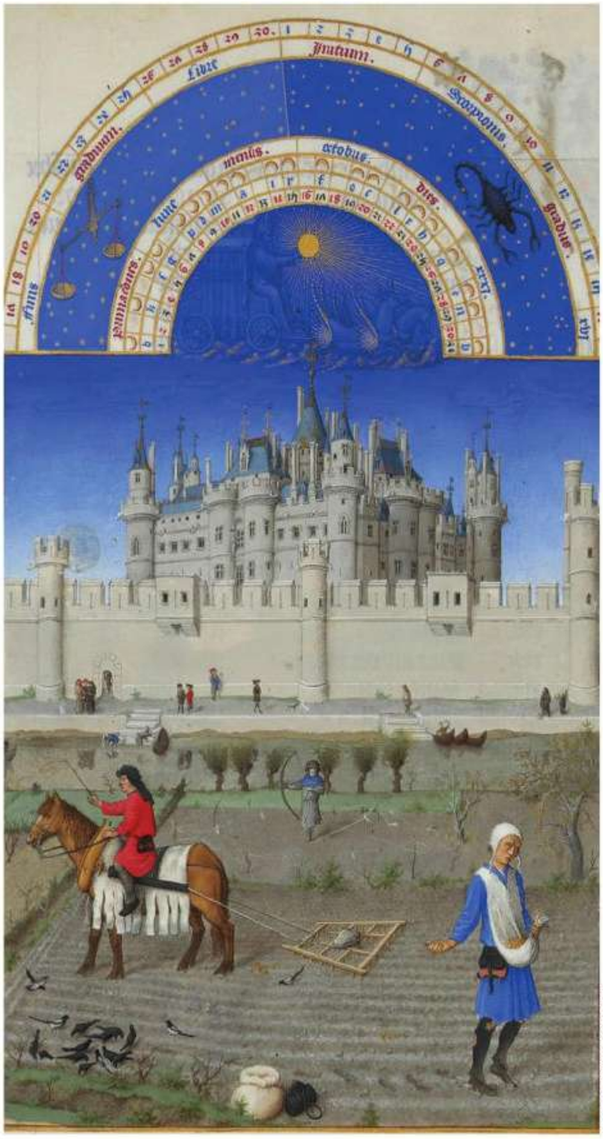


Image source: wiki/R. G. Ojeda

Palace Politics

Pizan's work was not restricted to the defence of women

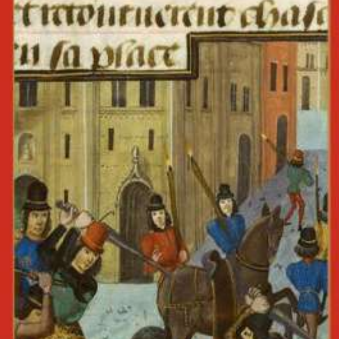


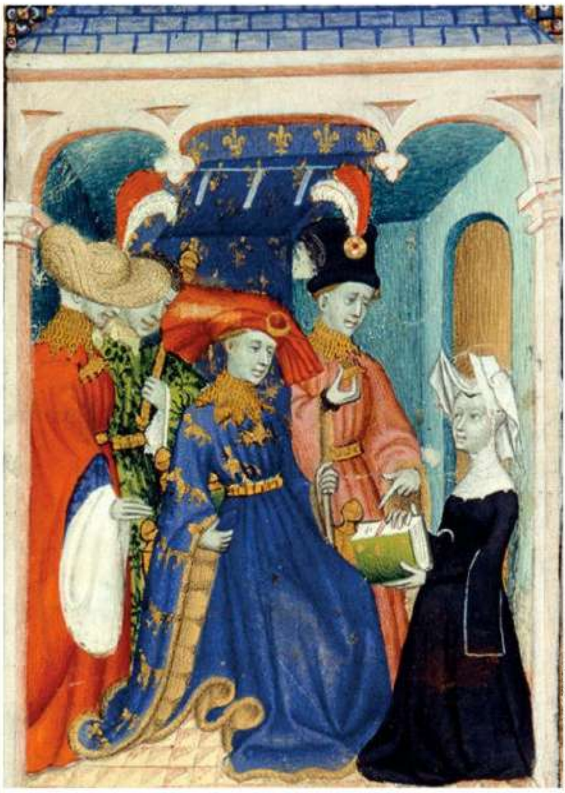
Image source: wiki/Bibliothèque nationale de France

During her lifetime, France was engulfed in social and political turmoil which greatly influenced her writing. The country was already in the midst of the Hundred Years' War against the English when King Charles VI's bouts of instability caused a power vacuum at court between the royal houses of Orléans and Burgundy, led by the king's brother Louis I, Duke of Orléans and his cousin, John the Fearless, respectively. In 1407, Louis was assassinated on John's orders, triggering a civil war that lasted almost three decades.

In response to all of this, Pizan wrote numerous works discussing the various issues in France, starting with one of her major political treatises, *The Book Of The Body Politic*. Published in 1407 and dedicated to the king's heir, Dauphin Louis, the treatise discussed social responsibility and education for all classes, from princes to the common people, and served as an instruction manual for the young ruler.

In 1410, Pizan was commissioned by an unknown patron to write *The Book Of Feats Of Arms And Of Chivalry* - essentially a book on the art of war. Describing how kings and princes should conduct war both on and off the battlefield, she argued that there are "many great wrongs in warfare" but also that "wars undertaken for a just cause are permitted by God". The manual was later translated and published in England by William Caxton for King Henry VII in 1489.

Pizan followed this with her last major work, *The Book Of Peace*, which was also dedicated to Dauphin Louis and was published in 1413. At a time when corruption and civil unrest was rife in France, she urged him to seek peace for the country, believing that he was capable of becoming a just ruler who could bring an end to the constant fighting. But, sadly, he died just two years later.



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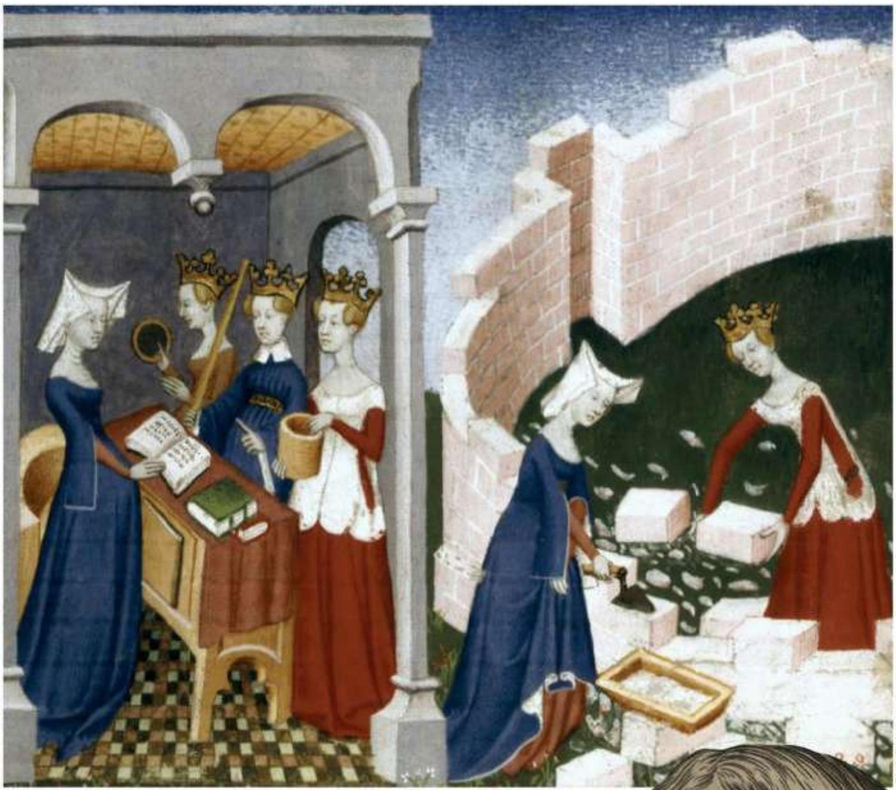

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The querelle began after Christine published her first criticism of *Roman De La Rose*, sparking a controversy among French intellectuals about the vilification of women in literary texts. She ended up exchanging letters with two French royal secretaries who opposed her arguments, Jean de Montreuil and Gontier Col, but she also received support, namely from Jean Gerson, the chancellor of the University of Paris.

Through her writing, Pizan opened up an opportunity for women to oppose the deep-set misogynistic views of the patriarchal society in which they lived. For the first time, a woman was speaking up for fellow women, instead of their merits and faults being discussed solely between men. She firmly believed that women were equal to men and they should be treated as such, and as a result she has often been identified as a feminist who championed women in medieval society.

Having said this, labelling Pizan as a feminist is not a straightforward matter. To start with, the word 'feminist' did not exist in her lifetime and to label her as one is anachronistic. Instead, she would most likely have seen herself as a defender or advocate for women. On top of this, we have to think about the world in which Pizan lived and not ours - we should not be holding her up as a hero of modern feminism.

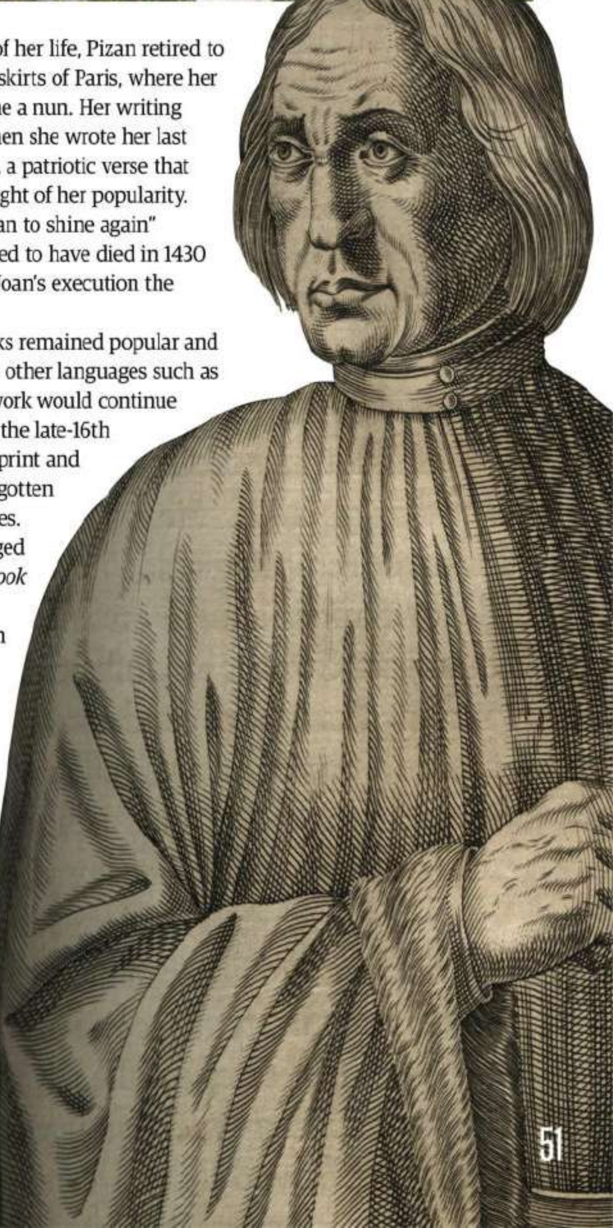
It is because of this that Pizan has often been criticised today for not questioning society in the way that we would expect modern feminists to do. After all, she never argued against the division of roles based on gender, she did not advocate for social, political or economic equality for women, and she did not appear to encourage them to aim for the independence that she had managed to gain for herself.

However, we have to remember that Pizan was restricted in terms of what she could confront if she wanted her arguments to be accepted, considering what was legally and 'morally' right in France during this period. Nevertheless, there is no denying that she argued in favour of women and made some huge accomplishments, setting a precedent to be followed - and perhaps making her a proto-feminist.

For around the last decade of her life, Pizan retired to the abbey at Poissy on the outskirts of Paris, where her surviving daughter had become a nun. Her writing ground to a halt until 1429, when she wrote her last poem, *The Tale Of Joan Of Arc*, a patriotic verse that celebrated Joan at the very height of her popularity. Proclaiming that "the sun began to shine again" thanks to Joan, Pizan is believed to have died in 1430 and so she did not live to see Joan's execution the following year.

After her death, Pizan's works remained popular and they were even translated into other languages such as English and Portuguese. Her work would continue to influence later writers until the late-16th century, when they fell out of print and were largely unknown and forgotten for the following three centuries. Although her writings reemerged in the late 19th century, *The Book Of The City Of Ladies* was not translated into modern English until 1982.

During her extraordinary lifetime, Pizan achieved her own independence and wrote over 40 texts, an exceptional feat for a woman of the time. Using her voice, she defended the intellectual and moral character of women and, although it would be centuries before women achieved equality, she most certainly paved the way for them. ○



LEGACY OF THE AZTECS

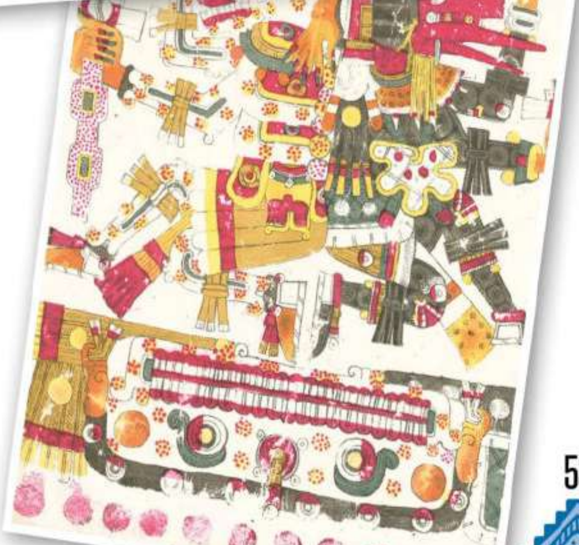
The vestiges of the fallen Aztec Empire live on in Mexico today

Written by Will Lawrence

There is a story once told by Bernardino de Sahagún, the Franciscan friar, missionary priest and pioneering ethnographer who participated in the Spanish colonisation of Mexico. It may be apocryphal, a retrofitted fiction crafted by the Spaniards to facilitate their conquest but, given the prevalence of the returning god, demi-god or king in different mythologies around the world, it carries the ring of truth. It stated that King Moctezuma II, who ruled the Aztec kingdom during the arrival of Hernán Cortés, welcomed the conquistador's appearance, recalling an indigenous belief and proclaiming the Spaniard to be an incarnation of Quetzalcóatl, the feathered serpent deity who was destined to return and restore his sacred kingdom of Tollan.

MAIN Day of the Dead in the Lake Pátzcuaro area. Traditionally, people decorate tombs with marigolds and offerings, and spend a night next to the tomb of their deceased family member

LEFT An elaborate altar with food, photographs and marigolds for a Day of the Dead celebration



BELOW Similar to the imagery of the Day of the Dead, the Aztec god of death Mictlantecuhtli had a skull face

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Image source: wiki/FAMSI.org

It is said that in Mexico today, and even among some Latinos living in the US, there are people who still hold onto this belief, hoping that one day a great Aztec deity might return in a symbolic or political context. For Aztec culture still holds a prominent place in modern Mexico, in its national identity and within the hearts of so many of those who call it home. In 1964, the then-Mexican president dedicated a plaque at Tlatelolco, which, alongside the ancient capital of Tenochtitlán, stands as the primary archaeological site in Mexico City. It reads: "Heroically defended... Tlatelolco fell to the power of Hernán Cortés. It was neither a triumph nor a defeat but the painful birth of the Mestizo nation that is Mexico today." 'Mestizo' is a term that refers to a person of combined Spanish and Native American descent, and it's the foundation of the Mexican gene pool. If one stands before the archaeological site of Tlatelolco in the middle of Mexico City, the Aztec pyramid in the sacred precinct rises before the early colonial church of Santiago Tlatelolco, while modern tower blocks look down. Here we see all three cultures - Aztec, Spanish, Mestizo - gathered together as one. Modern Mexicans, like their Aztec forbearers, carry a deep cultural memory and it's both fitting and understandable that just as the Aztecs looked back, misty-eyed and proud, at their own Toltec heritage, so do Mexicans look back with pride at the Aztec peoples. One only need consider the Mexican flag: centred amid the green, white and red vertical stripes sits an eagle holding a snake and standing atop a cactus. This image was important ▶

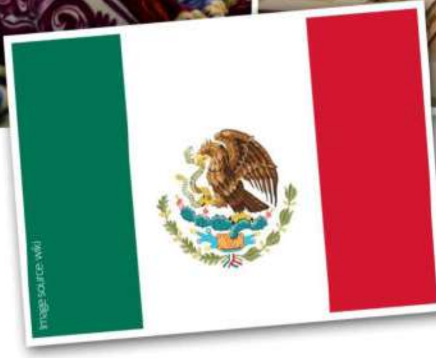

Image source: wiki

LEFT The Mexican flag carries at its centre the Aztec image of an eagle holding a snake while perching on a cactus

in the Aztec world, signifying the sacred spot where Huitzilopochtli, the god of war and the sun, told his people to build the great city of Tenochtitlán. It forms the central image of the frontispiece on the *Codex Mendoza*. Veneration for the Aztec past is palpable at every level in Mexico, including the administrative: the central government funds archaeology, while the native archaeologists themselves unearth the past in honour of the national heritage. Many of the funds come from the federally backed National Institute of Anthropology and History, and it seems to have poured a small fortune into the excavation of the Templo Mayor at Tenochtitlán, the great symbol of the Aztec city. When the excavation was underway between 1978 and 1982, the aptly named archaeological leader Eduardo Matos Moctezuma became something of a national celebrity.

It's important to note that the Spanish conquest did not mean the complete destruction of Aztec culture right away, but it did have a profound and immediate impact on the nature and systems of government. Human sacrifice was abolished instantly and the Aztec tax system died in 1521, followed with the continuance of native warfare tactics and the existing systems and arteries of trade. The more overt, outward trappings of the state religion also came under attack from the Christians' missionary zeal. Aztec peasant life, however, continued mostly unaffected and it endured in rural areas for a long time. In some areas it still continues largely unchanged to his day. The Nahuatl language also survived the conquest and even today is spoken by more than a million people across Mexico, remaining an important, living repository of ancient stories, myths and legends.

Even during colonial times, for the peasants in the countryside, the farmers and fishermen, it mattered little whether they were ruled by, and paid their taxes to, Moctezuma II or Philip II. The calpolli, or collection of families that lived and worked in the same area, remained the centre of their social life. And while the Spanish conquest marked the end of the great pyramid- and temple-building projects that dominated their landscape, the common folk continued to build and live in the same kinds of simple houses.

◆

“FOR THE PEASANTS, FARMERS AND FISHERMEN, IT MATTERED LITTLE WHETHER THEIR TAXES WERE PAID TO MOCTEZUMA II OR PHILIP II”

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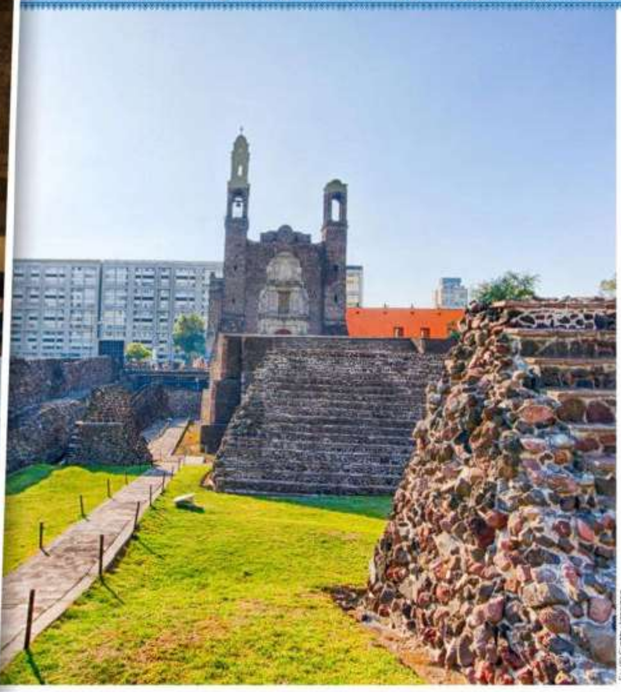
Similarly, the traditional tools employed by the common people remained in use, as did the distinctive orange, unglazed pottery. Even after the introduction of iron, all across the countryside workers retained and manufactured obsidian tools. Archaeologists have shown that iron nails and glazed ceramics did not start appearing in rural sites until after 1650. And while this retention of native tradition might simply reflect an unwillingness to change, some historians argue that it was a conscious decision taken by many ordinary people in a bid to boost their political influence and their economic standing, while also exerting more control over their daily lives. Of course, they couldn't hold back the tide, and Spanish language and culture eventually washed through every area of people's lives. Yet the Nahuatl culture was not entirely overwhelmed. Even today there are Nahuatl Indians living in Mexico. The term 'Indian' is controversial, of course, especially when used in relation to Native American people in the USA. In Mesoamerica, it was a term used by the Spaniards to designate any native people and to differentiate them from their European 'overlords', whether Aztecs, Mayas, Zapotecs or any other kind of people. Today in Mexico, its use has changed and the problematic term 'Indian' is employed in relation to anyone who

Aztec-inspired designs remain a popular fixture in contemporary fashion styles



FAR-LEFT Pilgrims sleep near an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, an important religious figure with both Christian and pre-Christian origins

MIDDLE-LEFT Tourists view panoramas of the cities of Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City

LEFT Spanish, Aztec and Mestizo buildings stand side by side in the middle of Mexico City

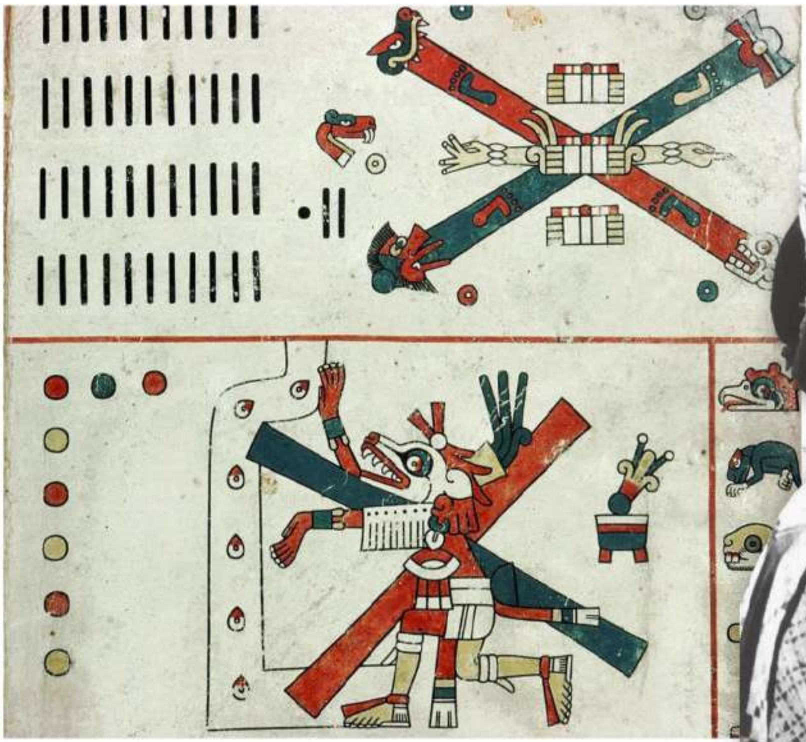
5x © Getty Images

speaks a native language and who lives in rural poverty.

Modern Nahuatl Indians are not Aztecs but their lives contain echoes of that culture. The techniques used to construct traditional homes are said to be almost identical to their ancestors'. In addition, their diet of maize, beans, chillies, avocados and squashes is also very similar to that of the Aztecs. In textile production, many Nahuatl Indians still spin thread by hand and use a backstrap loom "virtually identical to that used by the Aztecs", according to Professor of Anthropology Dr Michael E Smith. Obviously, Spanish and Mestizo culture has infiltrated their lives - they spin wool and eat pork and chicken - but these people are living proof that, on many levels, modern Mexican life and culture is underpinned by the vestiges of the Aztec past.

Interestingly, the Nahuatl language not only runs through place names across Mexico - from Coyoacan to Churubusco - it's also crept into the English language. Just consider tomato from tomatl, coyote from coyotl or chocolate from chocolatl, to name but a few.

And while the Spanish missionaries, unlike many invaders, including the



DIEGO RIVERA & FRIDA KAHLO

The celebrated Mexican artists revered their nation's Aztec past

Diego Rivera was a prominent Mexican painter whose large frescoes helped establish the mural movement in Mexican art. Between 1922 and his death in 1957, Rivera painted murals in, among other places, Mexico City, Chapingo, Cuernavaca, San Francisco, Detroit and New York City, and was noted for incorporating Aztec influences into his work.

Among his most famous murals is *The History Of Mexico*, commissioned for the stairwell of the National Palace in Mexico City, which he painted between 1929 and 1935. The north section of the mural celebrates the richness of the Aztec world and places the sun at its centre. Here he depicts aspects of the Aztecs' religion, including the revering of snakes and jaguars. The Aztecs remained a recurring theme throughout his work.

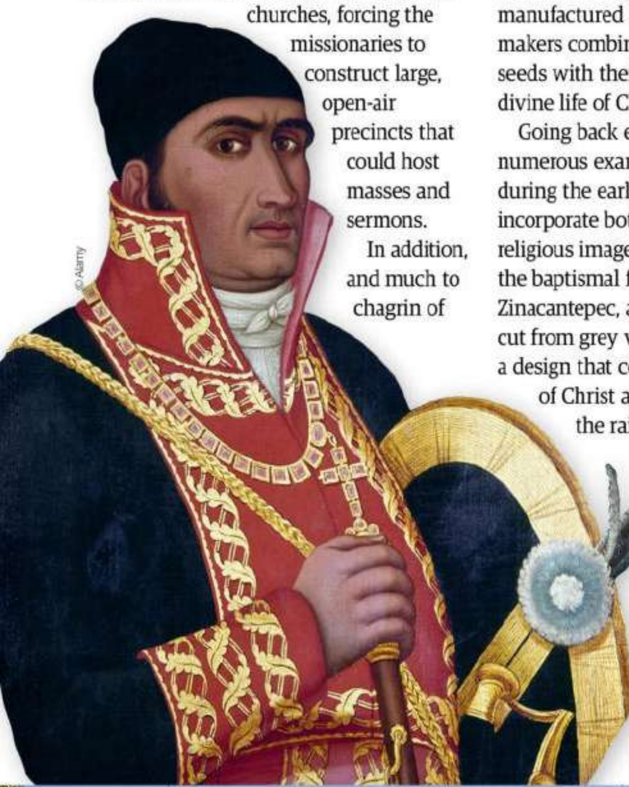
The same is true of his wife Frida Kahlo, who emerged as arguably the most famous Mexican painter of all time. Like her husband, with whom she shared a turbulent marriage, she was highly political and looked back to the echoes of her nation's Aztec past. Her painting *Self-Portrait With Thorn Necklace And Hummingbird* from 1940, for example, mixes Christian and Aztec imagery, with the thorn necklace echoing Christ's crown of thorns while at the same recalling Aztec rituals where priests performed self-mutilation with thorns and spines. The dead hummingbird around her neck, meanwhile, is thought to be sacred to Huitzilopochtli, the god of sun and war and the chief god of Tenochtitlán.

Aztecs themselves, did not incorporate or appropriate the gods of those they conquered - monotheism is not an inclusive belief system - they did not, or could not, destroy all traces of their new subjects' religion. The friars and missionaries were also forced to adapt new definitions and compromises when speaking through interpreters of the Nahuatl language, which often, says historian Davíd Carrasco, "resulted in new meanings given to notions of sin, crucifixion, sacrifice, salvation, saints and God". The native people, he says, were also resistant to the newly built Christian churches, forcing the missionaries to construct large, open-air precincts that could host masses and sermons.

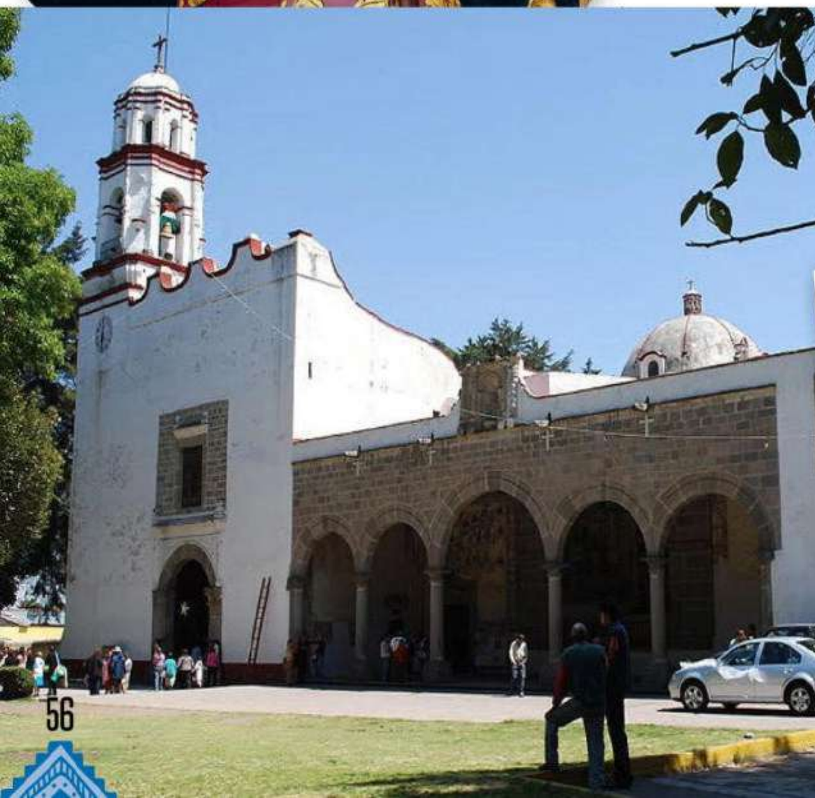
In addition, and much to chagrin of the friars, the native people did not simply accept Catholicism as preached by the missionaries, but took whatever elements that appealed and blended these with their own pre-existing beliefs. One example of the persistence of pre-Christian belief is to be found in figures of the crucified Christ manufactured from maize, whereby the makers combined their belief in the divine seeds with their understanding of the divine life of Christ.

Going back even further, there are numerous examples of sculptures crafted during the early colonial period that incorporate both Christian and Aztec religious imagery. A prime example is the baptismal font in the monastery at Zinacantepec, a huge monolithic basin cut from grey volcanic stone, carved with a design that combines Christian images of Christ and Mary with symbols of the rain god Tlaloc. Perhaps the most powerful blend of Christian and Aztec belief is found with the story of the Virgin of Guadalupe, whose apparition is said to have appeared in the colonial period at a sanctuary closely associated with a native goddess.

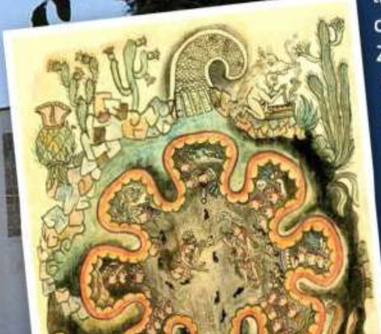
"THE AZTECS TOOK ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIANITY AND BLENDED THESE WITH THEIR OWN BELIEFS"


© Alamy

LEFT An 1812 portrait of the insurgent leader José María Morelos



BELOW The Zinacantepec monastery contains a famous basin that blends Christian images of Christ and Mary with symbols of the Aztec rain god Tlaloc



BELOW-INSET Chicomoztoc, the Place of the Seven Caves, in a post-Cortesian codex from 1550

3x Image sources: wiki

AZTLÁN & MEXICA

The mythic home of the Aztecs and the people they became

Of all the contributions the native people have given to modern Mexico, perhaps the most prominent is the country's name. According to some sources, the native people of what is now known as the Mexican valley or basin emerged from a fertile hill known as Chicomoztoc (Place of the Seven Caves) and inhabited Aztlán (Place of the White Heron), an ancient water-bounded settlement whose people were called the Azteca. They emerged on the prompting of the great god Huitzilopochtli and, in the *Codex Aubin*, it says that upon their departure from Aztlán the god named them the Mexica, the origin of the term Mexican.

Over the years, the concept of Aztlán as the place of origin of the pre-Columbian Mexican civilization has become a symbol for various Mexican nationalist and indigenous movements, including the Chicano Movement of the 1960s, a civil rights movement in the US that sought to promote the rights of Mexican-Americans.

As with the Black Power movement, it fell victim to repression and police brutality. Aztlán's appropriation by the Chicano Movement is often credited to the activist Oscar Zeta Acosta, and many consider this hallowed motherland to refer to the lands of Northern Mexico that were annexed by the United States during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). In truth, no one can say for sure where Aztlán lies, though it still lives in the hearts of many Latinos who look back with pride on their Aztec past.

10
NUEVOS PESOS
BANCO DE MEXICO
D 6886391
DIEZ NUEVOS PESOS

© Getty Images

She is said to have spoken the Nahuatl language, was of the same racial colouring as the Aztec people and showed favour to the native people, while making demands of the Spaniards on their behalf. She is now revered the world over as a sacred 'Mother of Mexico'.

Perhaps the most famous expression of Aztec ceremonial practice that survives today is the Day of the Dead, which is really a celebration of life and a memorial to the ancestral past. Archaeology has shown that in Aztec culture the dead were often buried in close proximity to the home, being still considered part of their family to be hosted within the domestic compound. The rituals and offerings made to the deceased members of the family are seen as the basis for the Day of the Dead ceremonies held by modern Mexicans.

It is said that during Aztec times these ceremonies were likely held in high summer but were moved to October 31 and then the first days of November to tie in with the Christian triduum of All Saints' Eve, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day. These celebrations now unfold across America as well as in Mexico and have become public displays rather than just ceremonies held by Mexican people in their homes.

Whether in public or private, the Day of the Dead is usually celebrated with bright yellow or orange marigolds, known by the Aztecs as cempoalxochitl, which they associated with the completion of a life lived. Altars, especially in the home, are further decorated with sugar skulls, photographs of the deceased and food offerings such as the sweet rolls 'pan de muerto' (or 'bread of the dead'). Altars are usually lit by candles and perfumed with copal incense. "If you look closely at these altars," writes Davíd Carrasco, "you may notice a humorous, tender image of the Aztec spirit-dog Xolotl, standing on a pedestal by the underground river on the way to Mictlan, waiting to guide the souls of the dead to the other shore." In Mexico, the first day of the celebrations is set aside to remember those who died in infancy or childhood. Adults are remembered the following day.

Aztec art has also found its way into the work of modern painters and sculptors such as Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco, with their celebrated murals, and also the paintings of Frida Kahlo, perhaps the most famous of all Mexico's visual artists. Aztec imagery also appears on Mexican bank notes and is widely employed in traditional dances.

During the Mexican wars of independence from Spain during the early-19th century, the insurgent leader José María Morelos invoked the great Aztec warrior people and the Spanish slaughter in the precincts of Tenochtitlán, proclaiming, "Spirits of Moctezuma... celebrate... this happy instant in which your children have come together to avenge the injustices and outrages."

Nowadays, these are more peaceful times in Mexico. The leading academic journal is called *Aztlán* (the name of the mythical place of origin of the Aztecs), while the eagle and serpent remain recurring themes in Mexican art, as do skeletons that recall the Aztec skull racks.

The Mexican past is very much alive in the Mexican present and it looks set to form an important part of a Mexican future. Some people might even say that Quetzalcóatl has returned and ensured that his nation and his people live on in a new and modern world. ○

> The enduring fascination with Aztec society has spawned countless films, books and even video games

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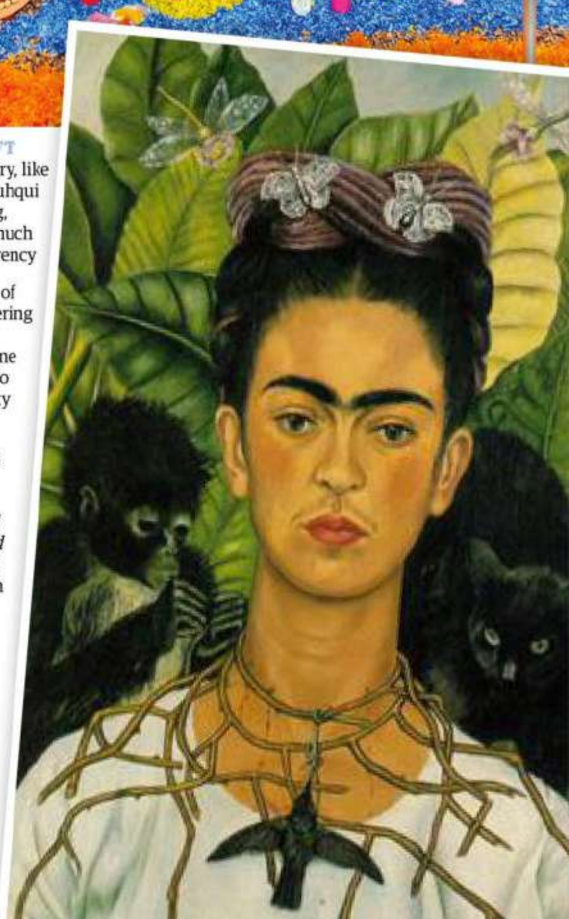


ABOVE-LEFT Native imagery, like this Coyolxauhqui stone carving, features on much Mexican currency

ABOVE Day of the Dead offering altar at Casa Azul, the home of Frida Kahlo in Mexico City

RIGHT Frida Kahlo's *Self-Portrait With Thorn Necklace And Hummingbird* blends Aztec and Christian symbolism

POLITICAL PIONEERS OF AMERICA

The people who lead the charge of demographic change in the US

Written by Jonathan Gordon

As the United States draws closer to another presidential election we wanted to take a look back at some of the people who broke important milestones in US politics. Whether representing underserved communities or ethnic minorities, these political figures were the first to break through and achieve their goals. For some this was a short-lived success, perhaps even ignominious by our modern standards, for others it was a lifelong commitment to service, but each of them helped to inspire someone who came after and opened the door to greater representation for all.

VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
VOTE

© Getty Images

BRING U.S. TOGETHER
VOTE CHISHOLM 1972
UNBOUGHT AND UNBOSSED

CATALYST FOR CHANGE
SHIRLEY
CHISHOLM
FOR
PRESIDENT

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN AND FIRST WOMAN TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT WITH DEMOCRATS

DATES: 1924-2005
PARTY: Democratic

IN OFFICE: N/A
STATE: New York

Shirley Chisholm can claim a number of firsts, but the most prominent and powerful was her 1972 run for the Democratic Party nomination for president. She wasn't the first African American woman to run for president of the United States (that would be the Communist Party's Charlene Mitchell who ran in 1968), but by challenging for the backing of one of the two major parties, her campaign was more substantive.

Chisholm shot to prominence in the Democratic Party when she became the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968, representing Brooklyn, New York, the district in which she had been born 44 years earlier. She had started her career in teaching, but moved into education administration for New York City before being elected to the state legislature for Albany and then running for the House.

Chisholm was a powerful speaker and challenger of ideas, although not necessarily a gifted legislator, and did much of her work on the outside of the system. In spite of limited funding, she pursued the Democratic nomination in 1972, getting on the primary ballots of 12 states and campaigning nationally. She received 10 per cent of the vote at the Democratic National Convention – an impressive feat given the challenges she faced.

Badge source: wiki/Ronwadebuttons.com

JOSEPH MARION HERNÁNDEZ

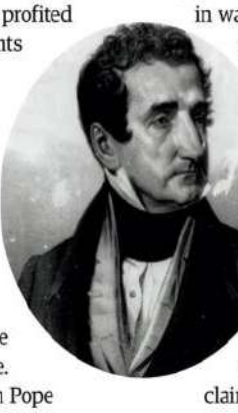
FIRST HISPANIC AMERICAN ELECTED TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATES: 1788-1857
PARTY: Whig Party

IN OFFICE: 1822-1823
STATE: Florida

A citizen of Spanish Florida prior to the First Seminole War that began in 1817 who'd fought for the Spanish during the Patriot War in 1812, Hernández was a landholder and slave owner who profited greatly from land grants from the Spanish government. But when John Quincy Adams negotiated the annexation of West Florida into the United States, Hernández remained and became close with the new American regime.

Republican William Pope DuVal proposed Hernández as a member of the state's new council, from which he was elected as the state delegate for the House of Representatives without opposition. His actual role as territorial delegate meant that he could not sit on House Committees, so he was not able to engage in the duties of the House in ways that his successors might have been able to. Nevertheless, he played an important role in transitioning Florida into the US federal government, making recommendations and appeals to how this should be handled with a special focus on land claims, which were obviously of personal interest given his holdings, as well as infrastructure improvements. He lost in the following election but continued to play a key role in Floridian politics.



3x Image source: wiki/Library of Congress

NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS

THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED AS GOVERNOR OF A US STATE

DATES: 1876-1977
PARTY: Democratic

IN OFFICE: 1925-1926
STATE: Wyoming

Less than two years after he had been voted in as the new governor of Wyoming, William B Ross passed away, leaving his seat vacant and triggering a special election. Seeking to retain the office, the Democrats turned to his widow Nellie Tayloe Ross.

Mrs Ross was originally from Missouri and born to a Southern family who had owned slaves before the Civil War, but were financially challenged when she arrived and continued to be so for many years. She trained as a teacher and met her husband-to-be around 1900, marrying him in 1902. From 1904, he started his political career.

Off the back of the Teapot Dome Scandal that tarnished the Republicans, William Ross ran for the governorship of Wyoming as a Democrat and won a narrow victory in 1922, despite its staunch Republican history. After he died, his widow was approached to challenge for the seat in a special election and won. In her new role she proved more than capable, fighting for tax relief for farmers and taxation reforms. She lost the reelection campaign in 1926, but wasn't done with politics and was appointed by Franklin D Roosevelt to be director of the US Mint (the first woman in the role) for two five-year terms between 1933 and 1953.

GEORGE EDWIN TAYLOR

THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

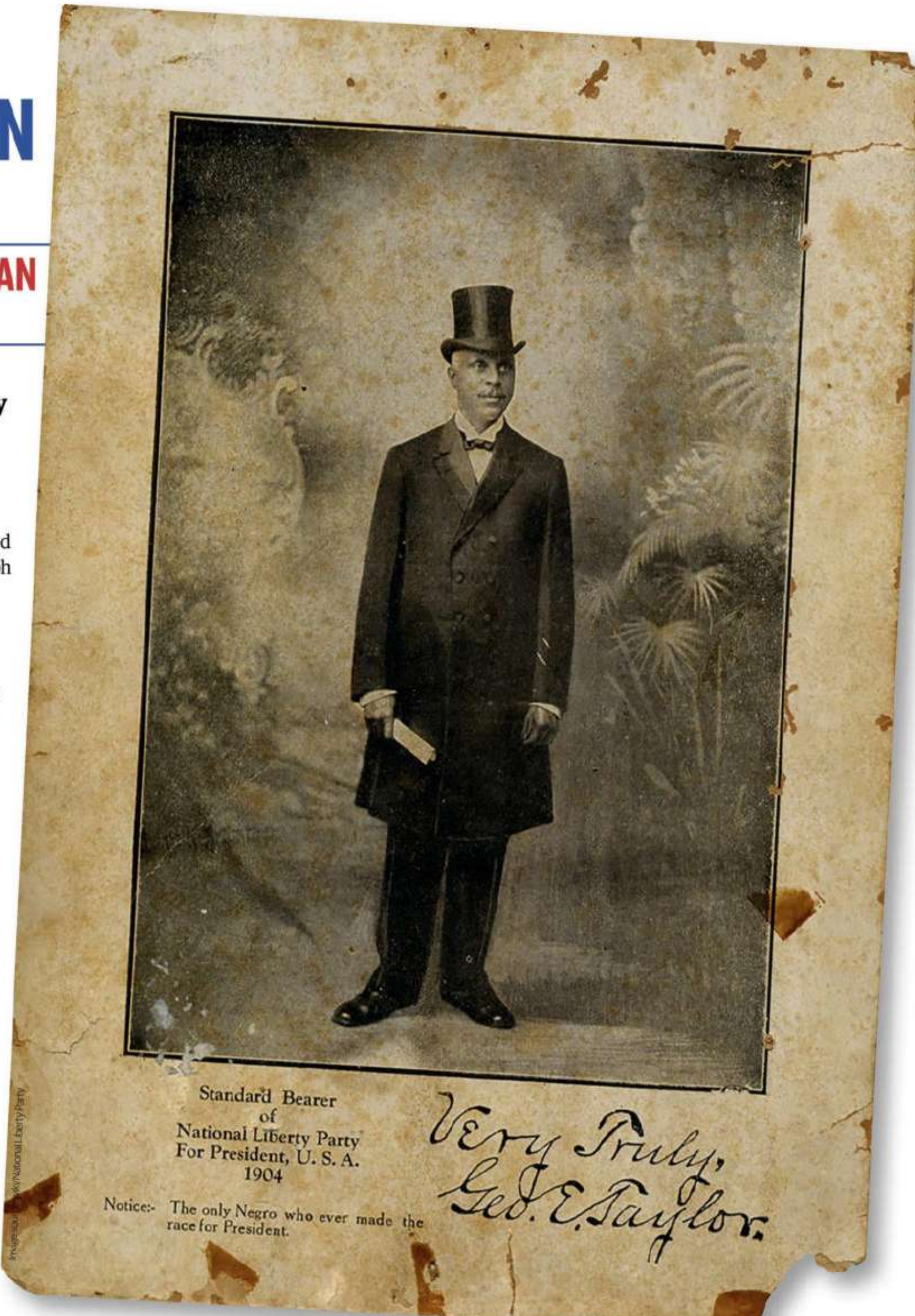
DATES: 1857-1925
PARTY: National Negro Liberty Party
IN OFFICE: N/A
STATE: Illinois

★★★

Those who choose to run for president of the United States often come to the role with a story of triumph over adversity under their belts. They overcame great odds, achieved beyond all expectations and, to put it bluntly, embody in some fashion the American Dream. As the son of a free woman and an enslaved man who was left orphaned while still a child, George Edwin Taylor had just that kind of story but, in a manner of speaking, he fell into his presidential run.

Taylor made his name in publishing, writing articles and columns for local papers, which drew him into the growing labour movement of the American Midwest. From here he teamed up with like-minded African American activists and looked to bring about change through advocacy to the Republican and Democratic parties. Finding that route stymied, they formed the National Negro Liberty Party in 1904 and made plans to put forward their own third-party candidate for the upcoming presidential election. The original choice, William Thomas Scott, was sent to jail in Illinois and so Taylor was approached to be his replacement.

Taylor's platform of universal suffrage, voting rights protection, greater black representation in the military, anti-lynching laws and federal pensions for former slaves didn't ultimately garner him much support and after the election he went back to publishing.



Standard Bearer
of
National Liberty Party
For President, U. S. A.
1904

Notice:- The only Negro who ever made the race for President.

Very Truly,
Geo. E. Taylor.

Image sou[illegible]/National Liberty Party

★★ OTHER BIG FIRSTS Important milestones in US politics

- **1789** George Washington elected as the first president of the United States of America
- **1836** Alexander Twilight elected as the first African American in a state legislature, in Vermont
- **1841** John Tyler becomes the first vice-president to become president, replacing the deceased William Henry Harrison
- **1861** Abraham Lincoln, born in Kentucky, is the first president born outside the original 13 states of the US
- **1868** Pierre Caliste Landry becomes the first African American elected mayor, in Donaldsonville, Louisiana
- **1870** Hiram Rhodes Revels elected to the Senate, becoming the first African American to serve in Congress
- **1887** Susanna M Salter becomes the first American woman to be elected mayor, in Argonia, Kansas
- **1922** Rebecca Felton becomes the first woman to be appointed to the Senate, but only serves for one day on behalf of a the recently deceased incumbent
- **1933** Ruth Bryan Owen selected by President Roosevelt as the first woman to be a US ambassador
- **1960** Frank R Beckwith is the first African American to run in a major party's presidential primary, in his home state of Indiana

Image source: wiki/UTA Libraries Digital Gallery; Badge source: wiki/Joe Haupt

GERALDINE FERRARO

THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN FOR VICE-PRESIDENT WITH A MAJOR PARTY

DATES: 1935-2011
PARTY: Democratic
IN OFFICE: N/A
STATE: New York

★★★

While Geraldine Ferraro's run as part of Walter Mondale's presidential ticket in the 1984 election would prove to be unsuccessful, its longer term impact is much harder to quantify. But there seems no doubt she inspired an entire generation of American women to challenge for high office.

Ferraro came from a legal background and worked for the Queens District Attorney's office. Her tough law and order pedigree helped her secure a congressional seat in 1978 and she was appointed as chairwoman of the 1984 Democratic Platform Committee, the first woman to hold the position.

Having accepted Mondale's nomination for VP that same year, however, Ferraro faced a new level of scrutiny and invasion of her personal life with questions about her qualifications for the role, the finances of her husband (he had to release his tax returns) and her position of abortion as a Roman Catholic (she was opposed for herself, but against forcing that choice on others). Despite the renewed energy her nomination gave the Democrats they were defeated in a landslide by Ronald Reagan, and no other woman would appear on a presidential ticket until Sarah Palin 24 years later. To what degree Ferraro's presence on the ticket affected the result is something that continues to be debated.

JOHN WILLIS MENARD

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATES: 1838-1893
OFFICES HELD: Republican
IN OFFICE: N/A
STATE: Louisiana

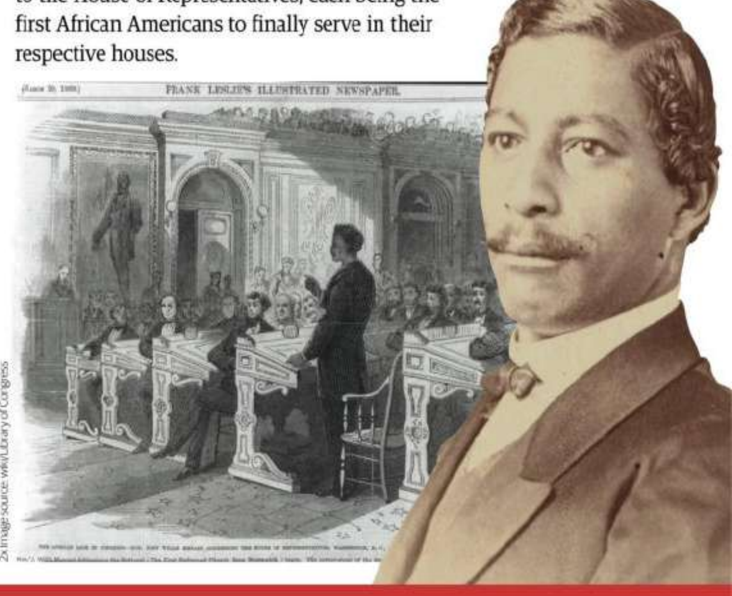
★★★

The story of John Willis Menard is one of dignity and humility that's ultimately tinged with bitterness and failure. Menard was a gifted writer, orator and publisher who challenged for a Louisiana seat in a 1868 special election after its congressman, James Mann, passed away.

Menard won the election by 5,107 votes to 2,833 but his challenger, Caleb Hunt, disputed the result. The case was brought before the House of Representatives in 1869, where Menard became the first African American to address the chamber. He made his case to represent the voters who had elected him and asked for no special favour on the basis of race. Ultimately, the House voted against either man taking the seat and left it vacant until the next election cycle.

William J Jefferson marked the anniversary of this moment 125 years later in a speech of his own on the same floor. Representing the same district Menard won, Jefferson called it typical of the "one-step forward, two-steps backward struggle African Americans have faced in order to participate fully in the practice of representative democracy".

The following year Hiram Rhodes Revels was elected to the Senate, and a few months later Joseph Hayne Rainey was elected to the House of Representatives, each being the first African Americans to finally serve in their respective houses.


FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER.

2x Image source: wiki/Library of Congress

- **1964** Margaret Chase Smith runs for the presidential nomination of the Republican Party, the first woman to do so with a major party
- **1968** Channing E Phillips stands in place of the assassinated Robert F Kennedy and is the first African American to receive votes at the Democratic Convention
- **1968** Running with the Communist Party, Charlene Mitchell is the first African American to seek the office of president
- **1984** Jesse Jackson becomes the first African American to seek the nomination of a major party for president in a nationwide campaign
- **1990** Douglas Wilder is elected governor of Virginia, becoming the first African American to secure such an office
- **1992** Althea Garrison is the first openly transgender person to be elected to a state legislator, in Massachusetts
- **1998** Tammy Baldwin becomes the first openly gay woman elected to Congress, representing Wisconsin
- **2007** Nancy Pelosi becomes the first woman to be made Speaker of the House
- **2008** Barack Obama becomes the first African American president of the United States
- **2016** Hillary Clinton is the first woman to be nominated as the presidential candidate of a major party

BEN FERNANDEZ

THE FIRST LATINO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

DATES: 1925-2000
PARTY: Republican
IN OFFICE: N/A
STATE: Kansas

The story of Ben Fernandez has all the hallmarks of the kind of bootstrap success that America loves in its political figures. Born in a boxcar in Kansas to illegal immigrant parents from Mexico, Fernandez grew up working in beet and tomato fields with his seven siblings before enlisting in the US Air Force to fight in WWII.

Returning from war Fernandez used the GI Bill to help him go to the University of California, where he graduated with a degree in economics. He followed this up in New York with night school classes to get a masters degree in foreign trade and marketing. All of these financial skills he then directed into marketing and finance positions, making himself a millionaire, and eventually landing himself a role on Richard Nixon's re-election finance committee in 1972. He was then appointed special ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay in 1973.

Fernadez's historic run for the Republican presidential nomination began in 1978 in preparation for the 1980 election. While he courted the Hispanic vote, he campaigned across 40 states appealing to all voters, ending up with an estimated four per cent of the popular vote. Despite this loss he ran again in 1984 and 1988, but with less success.

BEN FERNANDEZ
19
80
FOR PRESIDENT

Badge source: wiki/americantano.blogspot.com

GERRY STUDDS

FIRST OPENLY GAY MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO WIN ELECTION

DATES: 1937-2006
PARTY: Democratic
IN OFFICE: 1973-1997
STATE: Massachusetts

As part of a new generation of politically active Americans mobilised by their opposition to the Vietnam War, Gerry Studds challenged for a congressional seat that hadn't been held by the Democrats in 50 years. Despite this uphill challenge Studds would win and go on to hold the seat for 12 terms, frequently fighting for the fishing communities he represented in places like Cape Cod.

When Studds began his career he was not openly out as gay, but a relationship with a 17-year-old page not long after he joined the House in 1973 came out ten years later. Refusing to apologise or resign, Studds was censured by the House of Representatives on 20 July 1983 for personal misconduct with a House page.

Despite this Studds ran for election again in 1984 and won, making him the first openly gay politician elected to Congress at that time. His success emboldened other gay politicians not only to come out themselves, but also to run for elected office.

In the years that followed Studds advocated for the gay community, supporting increases in AIDS research funding, gay marriage, the right to openly serve in the military and much more.

He would marry his longtime partner Dean Hara in 2004.

© Getty Images

VICTORIA WOODHULL

THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

DATES: 1838-1927
PARTY: Equal Rights Party
IN OFFICE: N/A
STATE: New York

A stockbroker who was the first to publish a translation of *The Communist Manifesto* in her weekly paper (the *Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly*), an advocate of female suffrage and free love who was against abortion, a spiritualist and free thinker who denounced her own views in later life – Victoria Woodhull was a woman of contradictions over the course of her life, but she was also a powerful figure in the American women's movement.

This was illustrated when she was elected by the Equal Rights Party, an offshoot of the National Woman Suffrage Association, to run for president in the 1872 election against incumbent Republican General Ulysses S Grant and Democrat Horace Greeley. With a radical platform that included support for universal healthcare, equal pay for men and women, prison reform and, of course, female suffrage, Woodhull doubled down on the groundbreaking nature of her candidacy by naming abolitionist Frederick Douglass to the ticket as vice-president nominee. It's unclear, however, if Douglass ever acknowledged this offer, but it did make him the first African American VP candidate in US history.

At 34, Woodhull technically was a year too young to run for president (the age limit remains 35 to this day), but even so she doesn't seem to have picked up enough popular support to register any Electoral College votes.

Image source: wiki/Nate D. Sanders

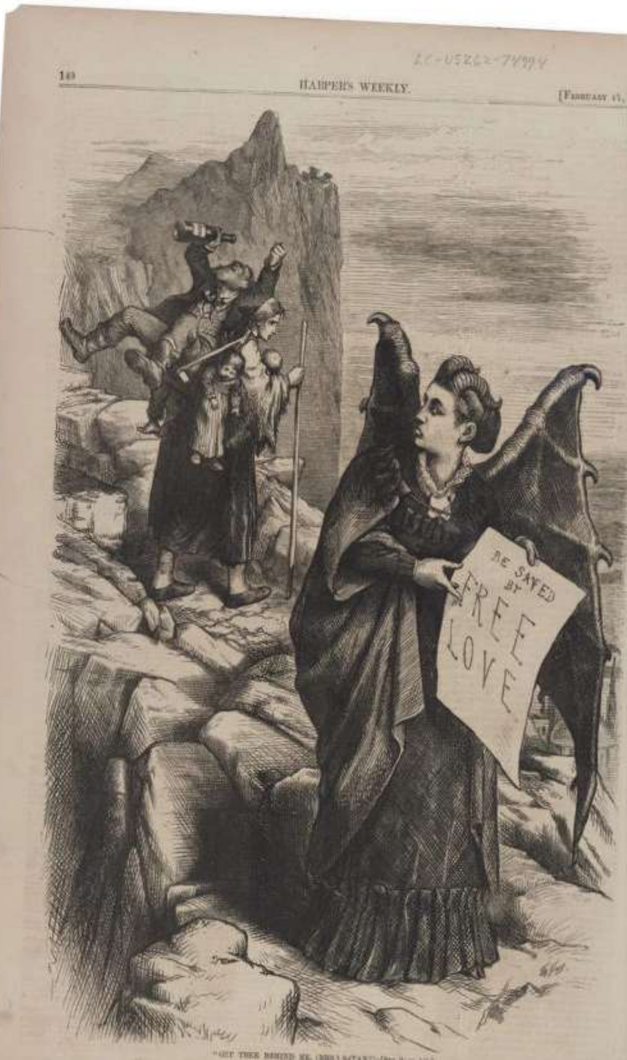

HARPER'S WEEKLY.
BE SAVED BY FREE LOVE

Image source: wiki/Library of Congress

JEANNETTE RANKIN

THE FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO CONGRESS

DATES: 1880-1973
PARTY: Republican
IN OFFICE: 1917-1919, 1941-1943
STATE: Montana

★★★

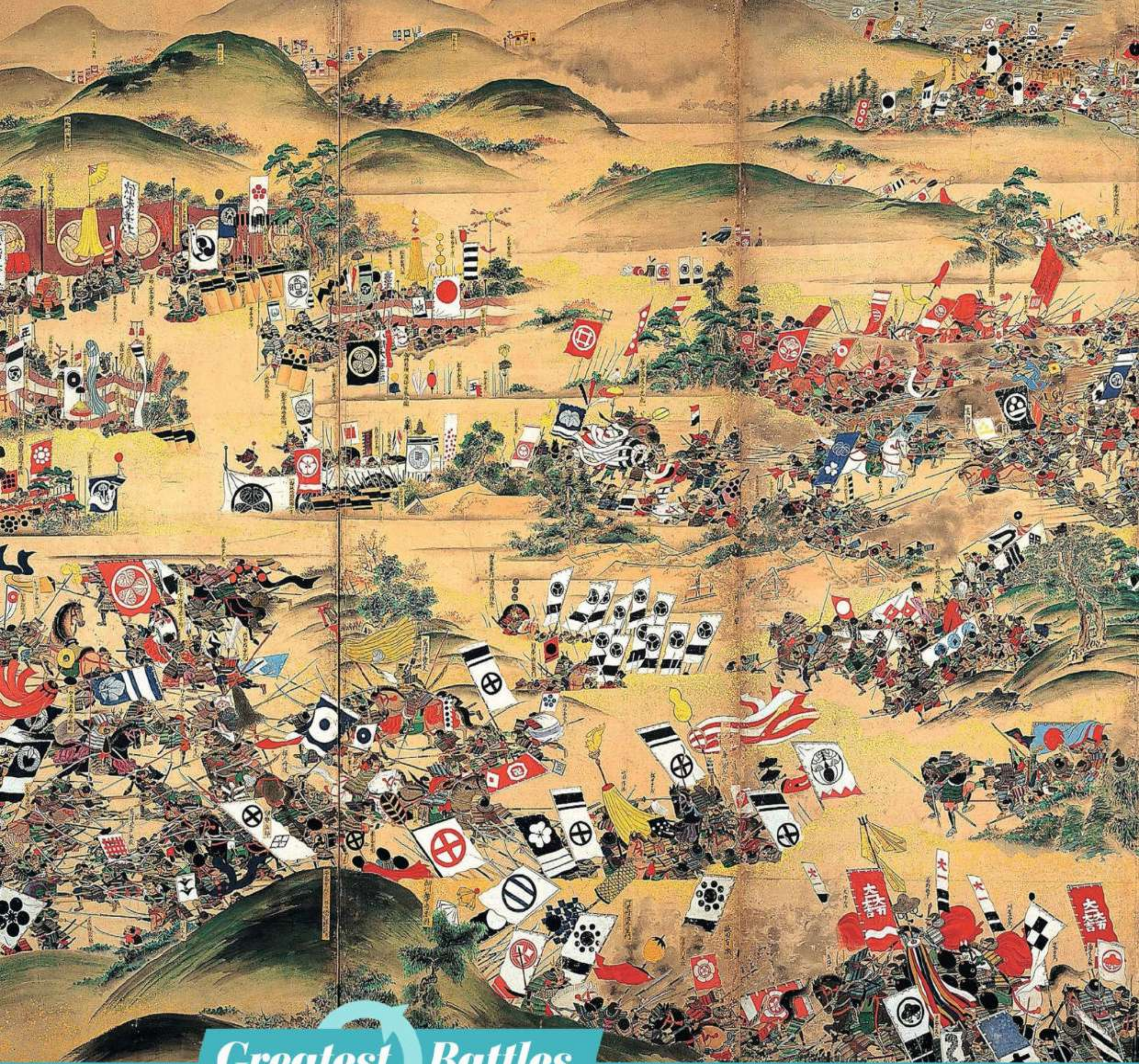
Jeannette Rankin holds the distinction of not only being the first woman to be elected to the House of Representatives, but to have achieved the feat twice over the course of 24 years. A committed pacifist as well as a suffrage advocate, she faced no shortage of challenges across her two terms in the House.

Rankin joined the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and succeeded in securing the right in Montana in 1916, which opened up an opportunity for her to run and secure a seat in the House. With war looming, however, her commitment to pacifism was challenged and she voted against US involvement in the Great War. Despite this backdrop she helped establish a Committee on Woman Suffrage in 1917 and opened the first House debate on female suffrage by saying, "How shall we explain to them the meaning of democracy if the same Congress that voted for war to make the world safe for democracy refuses to give this small measure of democracy to the women of our country?"

Redistricting meant she decided to run for Senate rather than defend her seat in 1918, first as a Republican and then as an independent, but she came third. In 1940, she ran for the House again and won, only to be confronted with another European war after Pearl Harbor. She was the only person in the House to vote against US involvement.

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASS'N

2x Image source: wiki/Library of Congress



Greatest Battles

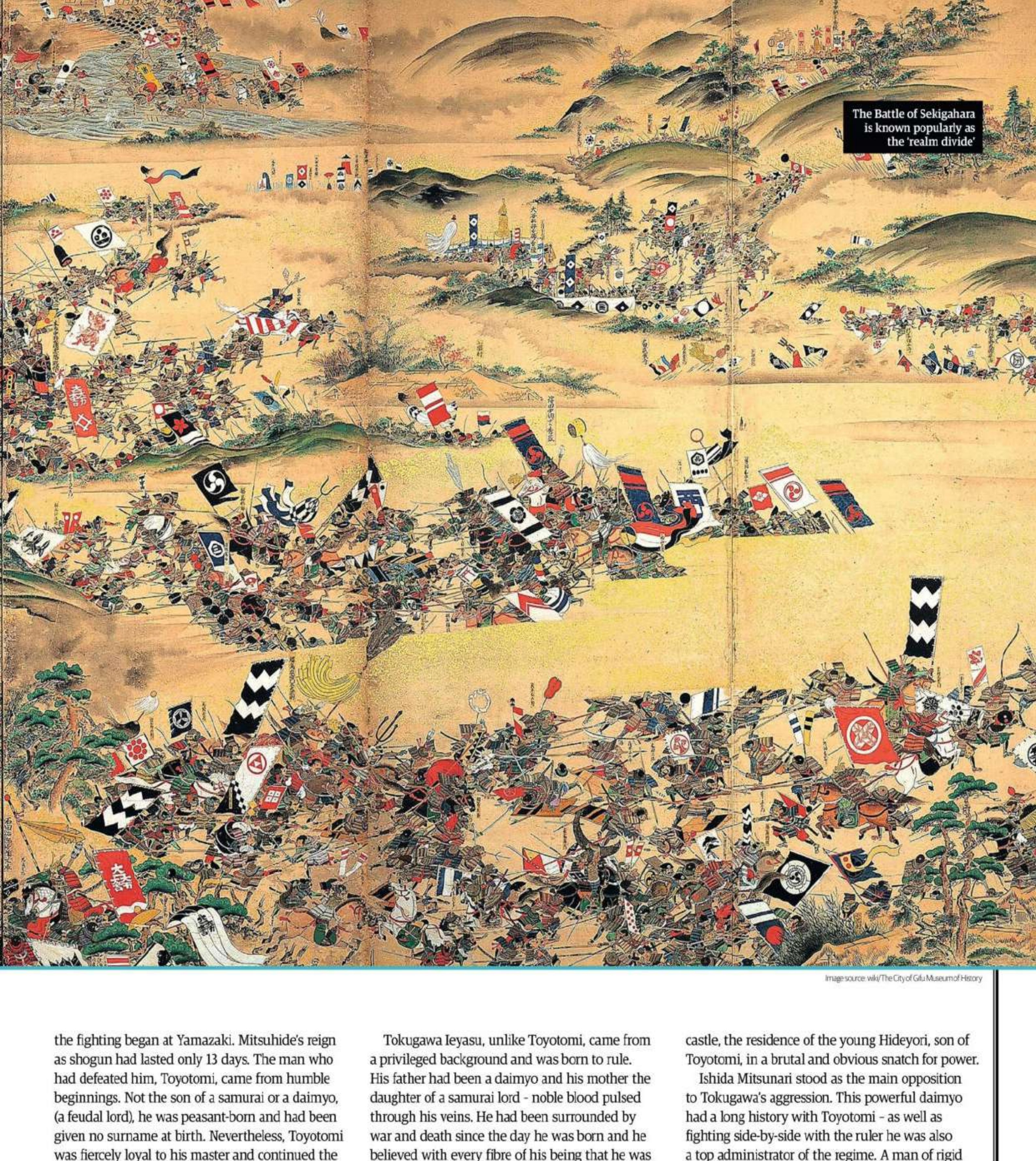
BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA

JAPAN, 21 OCTOBER 1600

Written by Frances White

By the end of the 16th century, Oda Nobunaga had changed Japan forever. The samurai warlord had conquered his way across the country, taking control of the fractured military fiefdoms one by one. Slowly but surely Nobunaga's bloody campaign led to the unification of a third of Japan, forming a mighty land far removed from the warring states that had existed before. However, a swift and shocking end was put to this unification when his own samurai general, Akechi Mitsuhide, ruthlessly betrayed him and the warlord was forced to commit ritual suicide, or seppuku.

However, Mitsuhide would not rule for long. Nobunaga's loyal vassal, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, vowed to avenge his master and faced the usurper in battle - forcing him to flee just two hours after



The Battle of Sekigahara is known popularly as the 'realm divide'

Image source: wiki/The City of Gifu Museum of History

the fighting began at Yamazaki. Mitsuhide's reign as shogun had lasted only 13 days. The man who had defeated him, Toyotomi, came from humble beginnings. Not the son of a samurai or a daimyo, (a feudal lord), he was peasant-born and had been given no surname at birth. Nevertheless, Toyotomi was fiercely loyal to his master and continued the work of unifying the warring states of the country. He steadily consolidated power until his death in 1598, leaving his clan to take control of the ever-growing and powerful Japanese nation.

Many didn't like the idea of being ruled by a previously peasant clan, and Toyotomi's failed invasions of Korea also cast doubts over its power. With the ruling clan's right to reign in doubt, a huge power vacuum formed in the Japanese government, and one man in particular was very keen to fill it.

Tokugawa Ieyasu, unlike Toyotomi, came from a privileged background and was born to rule. His father had been a daimyo and his mother the daughter of a samurai lord - noble blood pulsed through his veins. He had been surrounded by war and death since the day he was born and he believed with every fibre of his being that he was the right person to rule the united land. He had previously caused unrest by pledging his allegiance to Oda Nobukatsu, the heir of Oda Nobunaga opposed to Toyotomi, and he decided to rise up against the same family once more. For two years he plotted, schemed and persuaded various daimyo to side with him against the Toyotomi clan. With perfect timing for Tokugawa, the oldest and most respected of the Toyotomi regents died, so the ambitious lord made his move. He took over Osaka castle, the residence of the young Hideyori, son of Toyotomi, in a brutal and obvious snatch for power.

Ishida Mitsunari stood as the main opposition to Tokugawa's aggression. This powerful daimyo had a long history with Toyotomi - as well as fighting side-by-side with the ruler he was also a top administrator of the regime. A man of rigid character with a calculating brain, Mitsunari had trouble maintaining relationships with men whose power he needed.

He immediately recognised Tokugawa as a threat to the Toyotomi rule, so headed an unsuccessful plot to have him assassinated. While provincial regents built up their military forces amid accusations of betrayal, outraged condemnations of clans and families attacking one another, Tokugawa finally summoned together all his supporters into a powerful force. Mitsunari also took advantage of the chaos, bringing together all those who were loyal to the Toyotomi clan.

THE TWO ARMIES ASSEMBLE

Tokugawa wasn't the only one with powerful friends. While his rival was distracted hunting down a wayward clan that had taken up arms, Mitsunari gathered a group of powerful samurai and government figures, including Otani Yoshitsugu and Mori Terumoto. The force he brought together became the western army to counter Tokugawa's eastern army. Terumoto took the near-abandoned Osaka castle as his base, but when Tokugawa learned of his enemy's movements he split his forces, sending several daimyo to engage the main western army while he marched towards Osaka.

Both armies were now marching towards Gifu Castle, where the roads to Osaka converged. Mitsunari intended to take the castle and use it as a staging area for his planned takeover of Kyoto. However, his enemy got there first, and the general was forced to retreat south against a violent storm.

Wet, cold and tired, with gunpowder rendered useless by the rain, Mitsunari and his men halted at the town of Sekigahara, expecting the eastern army to attack at any time. He arranged his men in a defensive position with two streams either side of them. On 20 October, Tokugawa finally learned of the disposition of his enemy's troops after his advanced guard accidentally stumbled right upon the awaiting army in thick fog. Both sides panicked and withdrew before any fighting could take place, but battle was now inevitable.

To many it seemed that Tokugawa's army was completely outmatched. Mitsunari's formidable western forces numbered some 120,000 men, over 40,000 more than the eastern opposition. Mitsunari also held all the tactical advantages: he had men positioned high on the hills around the terrain, and his own army was placed between two rivers. But Tokugawa was nobody's fool, and had managed to sneak in a supply of arquebuses - powerful muzzle-loading firearms that could easily turn the tide of battle against a sword-equipped foe. Perhaps most importantly, his scheming had taken root among the ranks of the western army, as he had promised swaths of land to any daimyo who would change sides during the battle. But first he needed to demonstrate that his was the winning cause.

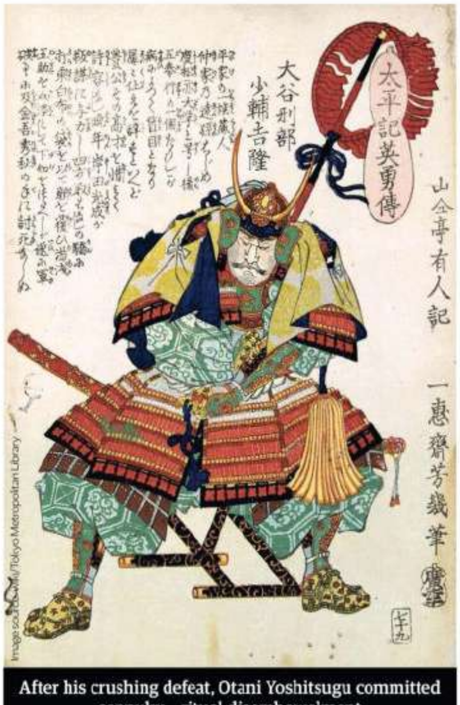

太平記英勇傳
大谷刑部少輔吉隆
山金亭有人記
一恵齋芳幾筆

Image source: wiki/Tokyo Metropolitan Library

After his crushing defeat, Otani Yoshitsugu committed seppuku - ritual disembowelment

THE EASTERN ARMY ATTACKS

As soon as the heavy mist masking the field lifted, Tokugawa's vanguard, led by Fukushima Masanori, charged north, following the Fuji River. They crashed into the western army's defensive line positioned in the right-centre, where persistent rain had softened the ground into a muddy, sludgy mess. The organised lines quickly descended into complete chaos and the fighting became brutal, with men desperately tearing into one another, but neither side was able to gain an advantage in the desperate madness.

Tokugawa, witnessing Fukushima's attack failing to make any ground, commanded his right and his centre to charge the enemy's left, hoping that sheer numbers would overwhelm them and Fukushima would finally be able to break through. The large number of samurai streaming across the field caught Mitsunari's attention, causing him to turn his as-yet unscathed centre force. This simple command began to show the cracks in not only Mitsunari's army, but also his own leadership. Shimazu Yoshihiro, in control of the centre, flat-out refused to ride to the aid of the right flank, and the powerful daimyo proclaimed he would only listen to respected commanders. Mitsunari's stubborn centre remained firmly in place, and he could only watch as Tokugawa's attack sliced through his men.

With Mitsunari's centre refusing to move, Masanori's attack finally gained some ground, but this only served to put them in more danger. As the eastern force advanced along the Fuji River, Otani Yoshitsugu, one of the few powerful samurai who Mitsunari had somehow managed to convince to defect to his side, stood positioned across the river. His forces were able to pounce on the advancing eastern army, slowing Fukushima's attack once more.

THE SPLINTERED WESTERN SHIELD

Also positioned across Fuji River, on Mount Matsuo, Kobayakawa Hideaki began by fighting for the western alliance. However, Tokugawa had courted the general before the battle and Kobayakawa had secretly promised he would defect to fight with the eastern army when the time was right. With Yoshitsugu's surprise forces just past him, the time was ideal for Kobayakawa to act - but he hesitated. With Mitsunari sending frantic signals for Kobayakawa to aid Yoshitsugu, and Tokugawa aware that his entire cause could hang on whether Kobayakawa moved, the general was frozen with indecision. Tokugawa decided to take action. He commanded his men to fire their arquebuses at Kobayakawa's position, forcing him to make a choice. As the shots rained down on Mount Matsuo, Kobayakawa's force finally charged down the hill into the fray. Kobayakawa's soldiers ignored Masanori and directed their attack at the western leader, Yoshitsugu. Kobayakawa, although it had taken some persuasion, kept his promise and betrayed his western allies.

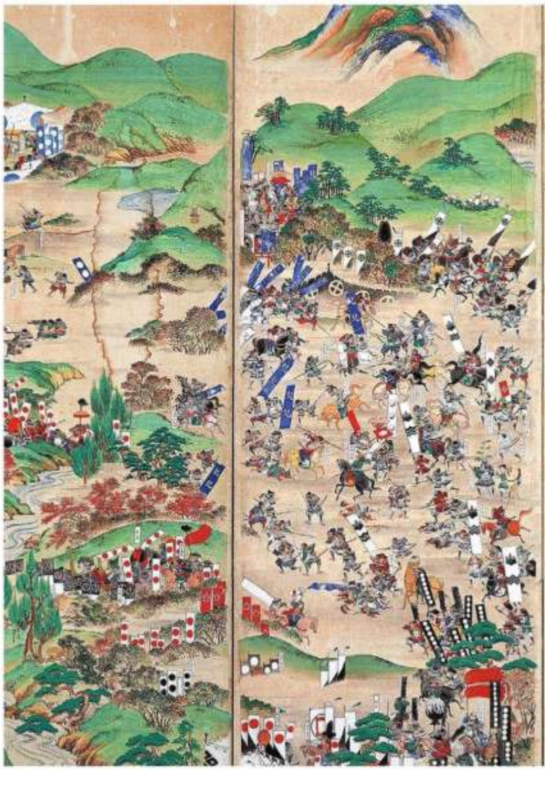


Image source: wiki/Rama

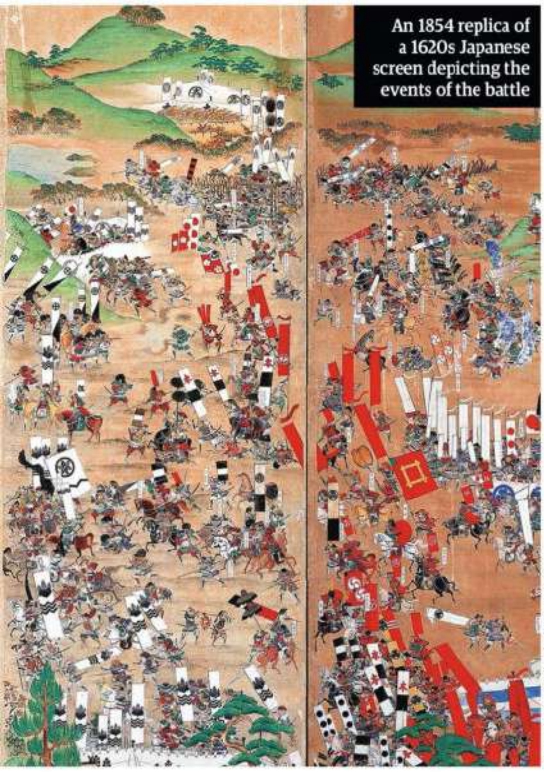
The arquebuses used in the battle by the eastern forces were pivotal in their victory

However, Yoshitsugu and Mitsunari had suspected Kobayakawa's potential betrayal long before the battle, and had prepared for his defection. Kobayakawa's force of 15,000 men crashed into Yoshitsugu's sturdy ranks, who had turned to face the traitors head on, and fought them back bravely thanks to their fresh, dry gunpowder. Although this rendered Kobayakawa's charge largely ineffective, Yoshitsugu came under immense and growing pressure. With these extra opponents on the field, under the command of several mighty samurai, there was absolutely no denying it - he was totally outnumbered.

Seeing Yoshitsugu barely holding out against such odds, one by one four western generals and their troops switched sides and swarmed upon the exposed Yoshitsugu forces from all sides. The effect was decisive - the bolstered eastern forces overwhelmed the western defenders on the left flank. Seeing this, and that a crushing defeat was inevitable, Yoshitsugu took the only decision that honour left him and opened his stomach with his own sword to end his life.

FUKUSHIMA'S UNENDING CHARGE

With Yoshitsugu's defeat, his forces quickly retreated from the field and left the western army's right flank there for the taking. Fukushima and Kobayakawa, now united in one huge, powerful force, thundered towards the right flank and destroyed it. At this point the eastern samurai outnumbered what remained of the loyal western force and their attack was swift and brutal. They continued the attack and advanced on the western centre. Mitsunari, his confidence shattered by the numerous betrayals, realised that with his shield



An 1854 replica of a 1620s Japanese screen depicting the events of the battle

Image source: wiki/inpaku02.iamus.ac.jp

EASTERN ARMY

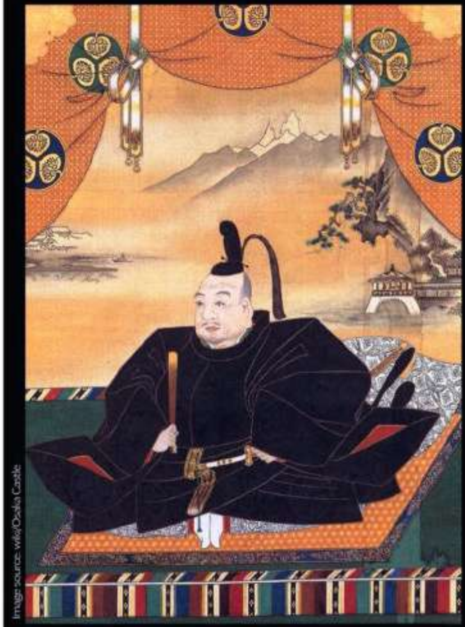


Image source: wiki/Osaka Castle

TOKUGAWA IEYASU

The leader of the eastern army had set his sights on finishing the unification project started by those he had previously served, Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi. He would become the first shogun of the Edo period.

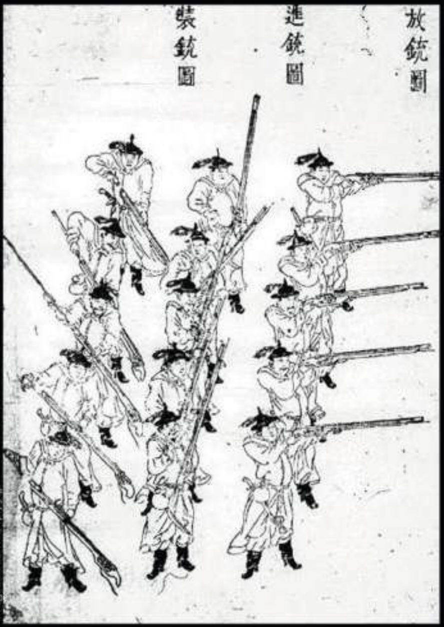


Image source: wiki/Yprpyqp

ARQUEBUS

An early muzzle-loaded matchlock firearm considered dishonourable by many samurai, they first arrived on the island by way of Portuguese traders and were adopted by many daimyo as part of their battle tactics.

WESTERN ARMY

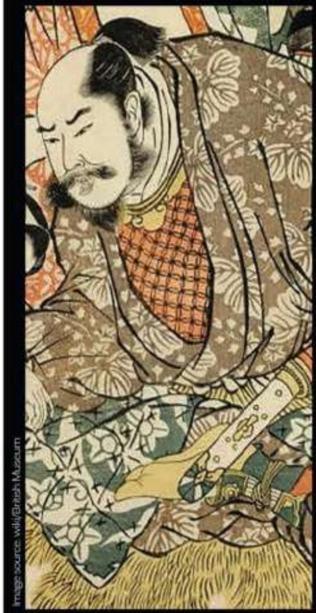


Image source: wiki/British Museum

ISHIDA MITSUNARI

Mitsunari was a leading official in the government of Toyotomi, but had ambitions for greater influence. He helped to muster forces to stand against Tokugawa as his influence on the ruling council grew stronger after Toyotomi's death.

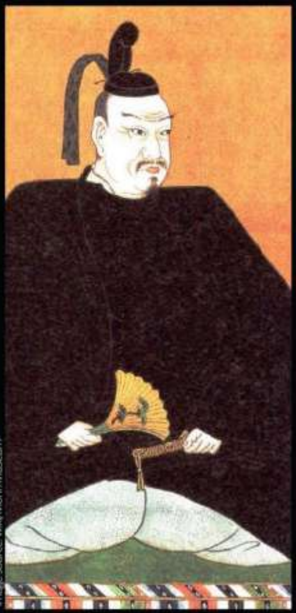


Image source: wiki/Mohri Museum

MORI TERUMOTO

Terumoto had originally been opposed to the first great unifier of Japan, Oda Nobunaga, but after his death Toyotomi made it his priority to come to peaceful terms with the western chief and he became a trusted ally in the conflict to come.

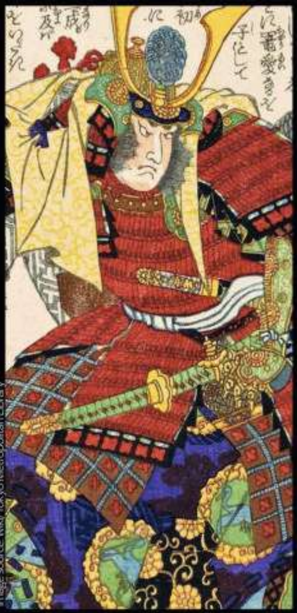


Image source: wiki/Tokyo Metropolitan Library

BETRAYAL

A significant turning point in the battle came early on when one of the western army daimyo, Kobayakawa Hideaki, failed to respond to an order to advance and instead turned to attack his own side, defecting to Tokugawa Ieyasu in the process.

decimated, defeat was imminent. With the same calculated intelligence that prompted the formation of his army, he ordered the retreat and fled up the northern hill slopes, hoping to find shelter on Mount Ibuki, the highest mountain of the region. The western army followed his lead, scattering and fleeing into the mountains. Although some managed to escape unscathed, Tokugawa's forces chased them, captured and triumphantly killed many of the fleeing commanders.

Tokugawa's eastern army had won, but later into the day forces absent from the battle finally began to arrive at Sekigahara. His own son, Hidetada, faced his father's wrath when he arrived late with over 38,000 men - a force that could have won him the battle far quicker and cleaner. Hidetada had been distracted attempting to capture another castle, Ueda, against his father's orders. Even some of Mitsunari's men had been held up - 15,000 troops slowed down by another conflict along the way. Had some of these troops arrived quicker, the result, and Japan's future, may have been very different.

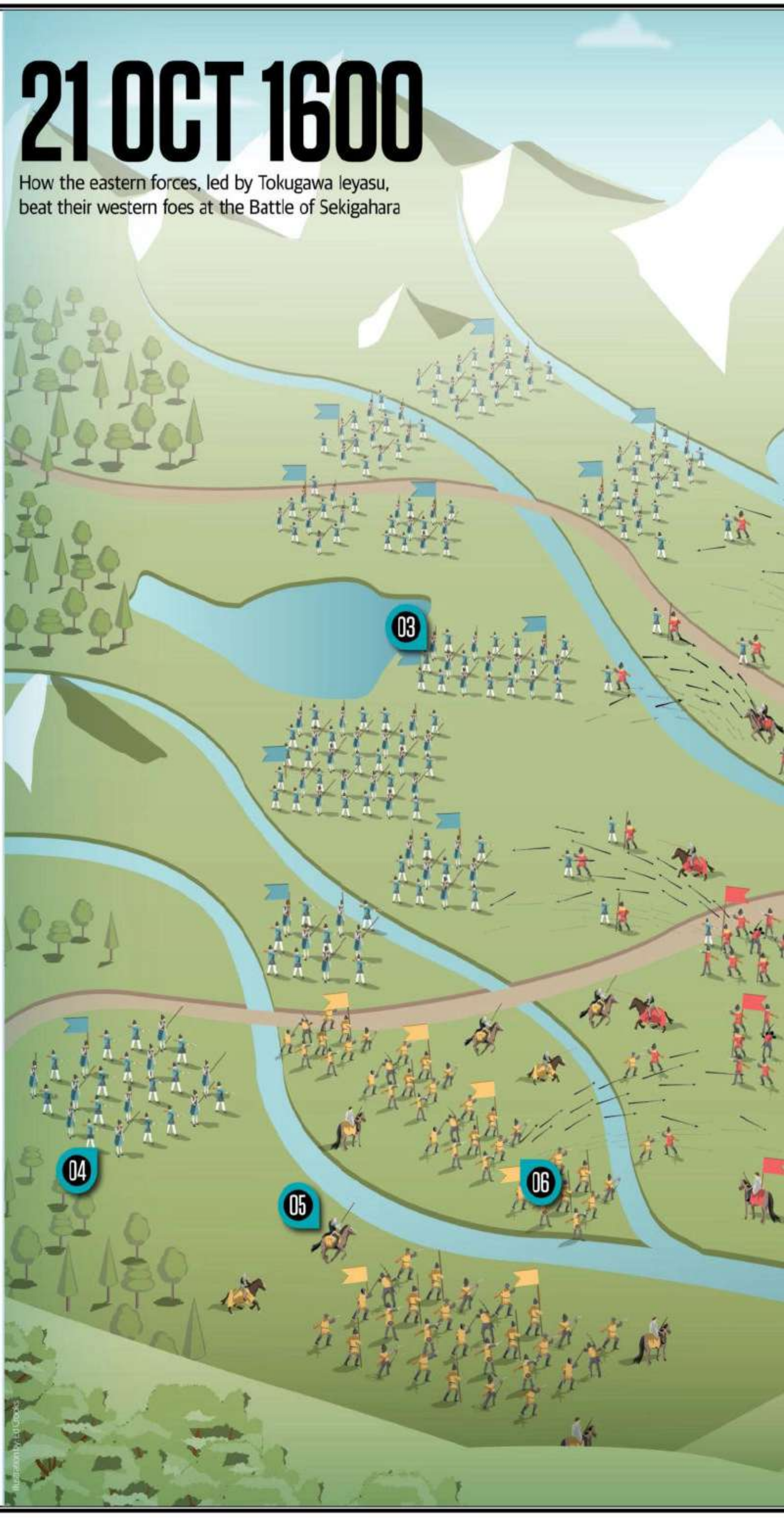
THE FUTURE OF JAPAN

Mitsunari's escape didn't last for long. Villagers loyal to the now all-powerful Tokugawa caught the fleeing samurai and handed him over to his enemies, who beheaded him in Kyoto along with several other powerful western daimyo. Tokugawa had to be sure his rule wouldn't be challenged by any other powerful men with dubious allegiances. As an example to others, Mitsunari's head was put on a stand for all to see - a gruesome warning to anyone who dared rise up against the new shogun.

Tokugawa was true to his word: after the battle he redistributed the lands to those who had fought by his side and who'd come good on their vows to change sides. Those who'd fought against him paid dearly. Toyotomi territories fell into his hands and pockets of Toyotomi support quickly faded away after the public executions of the western leaders.

Three years after the Battle of Sekigahara, Emperor Go-Yozei appointed Tokugawa shogun of Japan, and the battle soon became celebrated as one of the most important victories in the nation's history. At 60 years old, Tokugawa outlived and rose above all the powerful men of his generation. Aware he was in his twilight years, he began to concentrate on strengthening his shogunate and eliminating the last remaining Toyotomi clan members in a final clash at Osaka Castle. With nobody around with enough power to challenge his rule, Tokugawa ensured his ancestors would rule the country for another 250 years. Although it emerged through bloody means, the Edo period under the shogunate is remembered as the last period of traditional Japan, before aggressive Westernisation began in the 19th century.

But the Mori, Shimazu and Chosokabe clans remained hostile to the Tokugawa family, and their disdain was so strong it would pass down to their descendants. They would eventually rise together to bring down not only the Tokugawa dynasty but also a way of life that had endured for centuries.



21 OCT 1600

How the eastern forces, led by Tokugawa Ieyasu, beat their western foes at the Battle of Sekigahara

Illustration by Ed Crooks

01 The first charge

The leader of Tokugawa's advanced guard, Fukushima Masanori, charges north from the left flank towards the western army's right-centre. The ground is muddy from rainfall so the resulting clash quickly descends into a close-quarters struggle.

02 Help arrives

Witnessing Masanori's struggling forces, Tokugawa sends his right and centre troops to take down the western army's left. They launch an attack and overwhelm the western right-centre.

03 Limited power

Ishida notices his army being overpowered and orders his unscathed centre to join his struggling right flank. However the daimyo Shimazu Yoshihiro, who's commanding this unit, refuses as Ishida is not a respected commander.

04 The shield to the advance

Due to the lack of reinforcements, Masanori's forces overcome their foes and slowly gain ground. As they're moving along the Fuji River this exposes them to an attack from Otani Yoshitsugu's forces, who act as a shield to Masanori's advance.

05 Forcing his hand

Noticing the strong defence of Yoshitsugu's forces, Tokugawa is reliant on the support of Kobayakawa Hideaki, who lies close by. However, when he is hesitant to act, Tokugawa fires at his position and Hideaki finally joins the eastern army.

06 The eastern army overwhelms

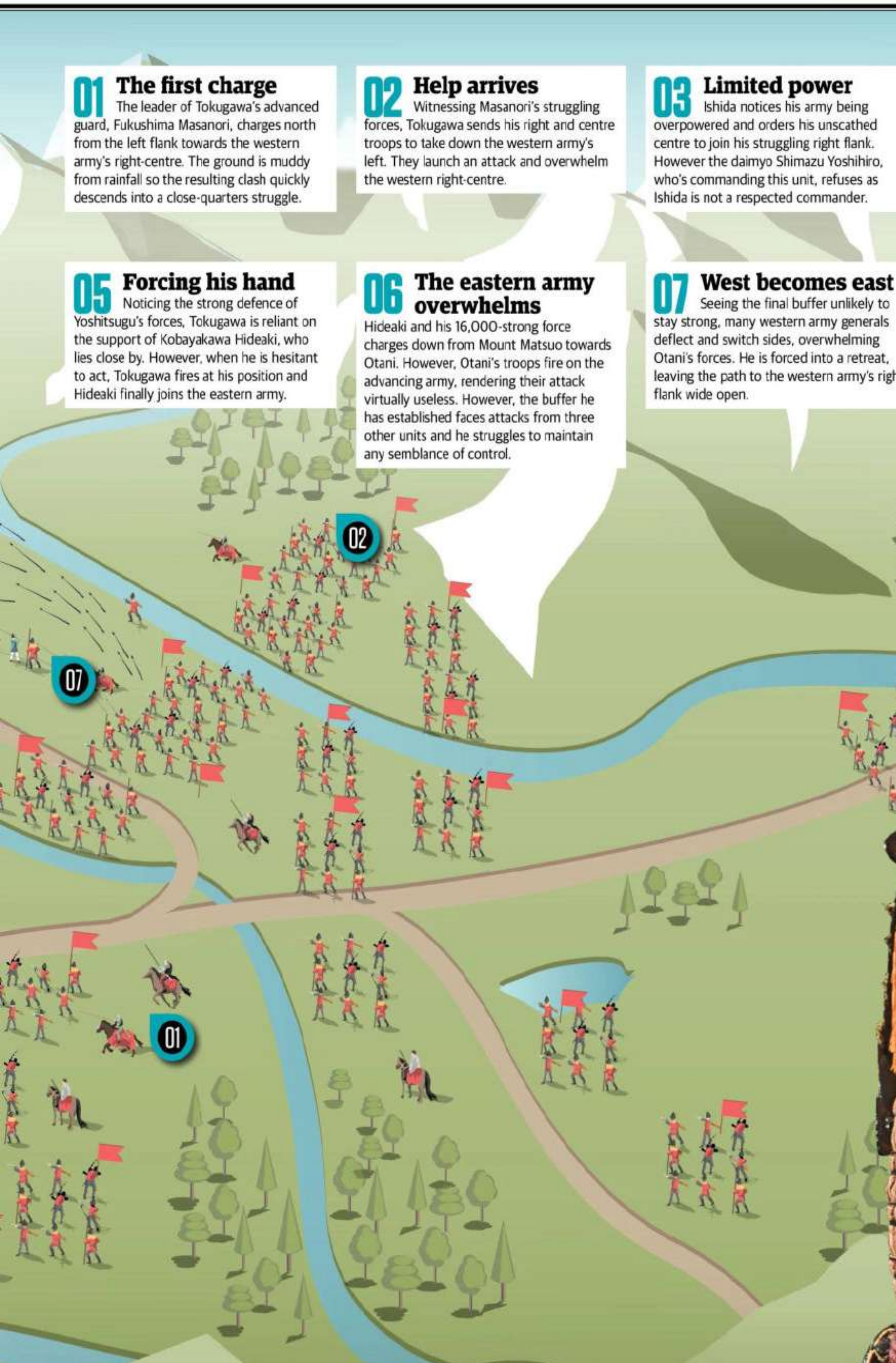
Hideaki and his 16,000-strong force charges down from Mount Matsuo towards Otani. However, Otani's troops fire on the advancing army, rendering their attack virtually useless. However, the buffer he has established faces attacks from three other units and he struggles to maintain any semblance of control.

07 West becomes east

Seeing the final buffer unlikely to stay strong, many western army generals deflect and switch sides, overwhelming Otani's forces. He is forced into a retreat, leaving the path to the western army's right flank wide open.

08 Eastern victory, western retreat

Fukushima and Kobayakawa rush towards the right flank, destroying it easily. Ishida admits defeat and his forces retreat. The western commanders scatter and flee – some manage to escape, but others are not so lucky and are captured and killed.



Heavily armoured, highly skilled samurai fought to the death to decide Japan's future

Image source: wiki/Vassil

What If…

KATHERINE PARR HAD NEVER MARRIED HENRY VIII?

Author, intellectual and formidable queen regent, Parr's impact as Henry VIII's wife resonates to this day

Interview by Callum McKelvie

Image source: Don Matzat

INTERVIEW WITH

DON MATZAT

Dr Donald Matzat has been a pastor in the Lutheran Church for over 50 years. In 2017, he adapted Katherine Parr's *The Lamentation Of A Sinner*. This is probably the first time this treatise has been made available as a standalone volume since 1562. It remains the only available edition. He continues to serve as a part-time pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wentzville, Missouri.

Who was Katherine Parr?

Katherine Parr was the sixth and final wife of the infamous King Henry VIII. She was born in 1512, the daughter of Sir Thomas Parr and Maude Green. Sir Thomas was a good friend of King Henry and profited from that friendship. Katherine's mother Maude was one of the attendants in the service of Catherine of Aragon, Henry's first wife. Katherine was named after Catherine of Aragon, who was also her godmother. So ironically, Henry's last wife was named after his first wife. Katherine received a good education, she was proficient in French and Italian and perhaps even knew some Greek and Latin. In addition, she acquired other skills such as a knowledge of etiquette and good manners, and an easy conversational style. She had the ability to sing and play music. Of all the wives of Henry VIII, Katherine was the most intellectual.

Katherine was married twice before. In 1529, she married Sir Edward Borough, who died in 1533. In 1534, she married John Neville, Third Baron Latimer, who was twice Katherine's age. Katherine now gained the title Lady Latimer. Upon the death of Lord Latimer in 1543, Katherine, now a woman of means, returned to court for the express purpose of being close to her real love-interest, Sir Thomas Seymour.

How did she become the wife of Henry VIII?

After mourning the death of his teenage bride Catherine Howard, Henry was on the prowl for wife number six and Katherine Parr caught his eye at court. Henry eliminated his competitor Seymour by making him the ambassador to Holland. After the death of Lord Latimer, in May of 1543, Henry proposed to Katherine declaring, "Lady Latimer, I wish you to be my wife." He did not expect an immediate response and gave Katherine time to think about it.

Why did she consent to marry Henry?

Contrary to the popular yet absurd notion that God had somehow commanded Katherine to marry Henry, a letter written to her brother George four months after the marriage tells the story. She wanted the 'comforts' associated with being the queen of England and the benefits her family would receive. So, Katherine had to balance the 'perks' of being the queen of England with the prospects of crawling under the royal sheets with the revolting personage of King Henry! Her exceptionally opulent and extravagant lifestyle during the first few years of their marriage confirms her intentions.

> "Parr maintained peace and stability while the king was in France"

What was her brief period of rule like while Henry was away in France?

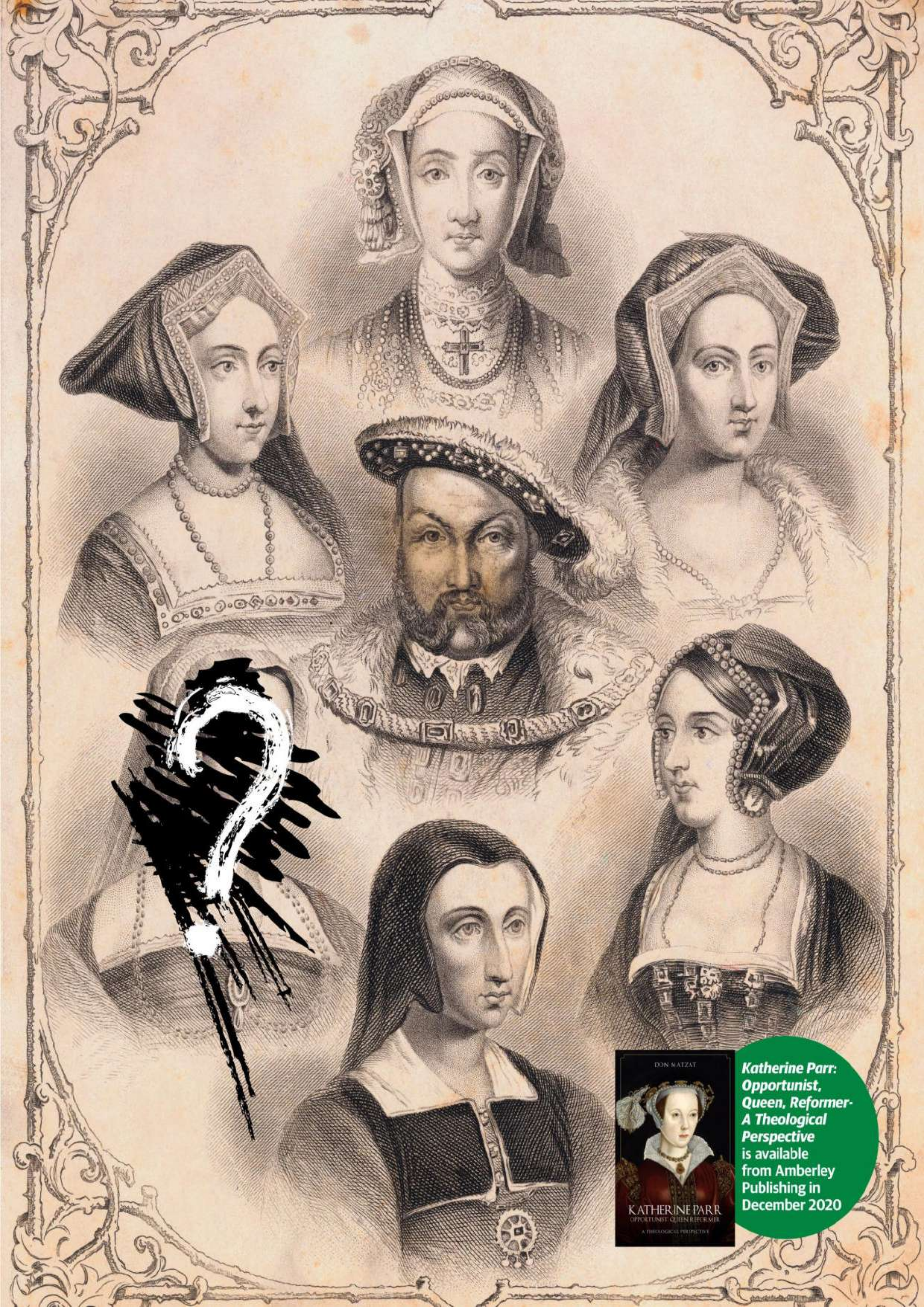
In July of 1544, Henry, in league with Emperor Charles V, went to war against France and left his wife of only one year in charge of the realm as queen regent. Thirty years before, when Henry staged an earlier war with France, his first wife Catherine of Aragon was also named queen regent. These two queens were the only two consorts in English history to be afforded this trust and honour. While she had an austere group of advisors, she was not merely a figurehead. Her advisors submitted themselves to her regency and assisted her in that role. Undoubtedly, together with the king, they trusted her judgment.

Katherine ruled well and made important decisions. She dealt with the issues of the status of French citizens living in England, the price of armour and the arrest and trial of deserters. She maintained peace and stability while the king was in France and aided the war effort with supplies of money and material. She was also responsible for the welfare of young Edward, the heir to the throne, a vital consideration should the king die in battle. Correspondence during this time indicates that Katherine and Henry had developed a warm, loving relationship.

Was there a time when Katherine fell out of favour with the king?

Both Henry and Katherine desired to see the church reformed, but not

Main image sources: © Getty Images



DON MATZAT
KATHERINE PARR
OPPORTUNIST. QUEEN. REFORMER
A THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Katherine Parr: Opportunist, Queen, Reformer- A Theological Perspective **is available from Amberley Publishing in December 2020**

THE PAST

1509

HENRY VIII

Henry VIII was only 17 when he took to the throne in 1509. As a prince he was deemed to be athletic and highly intelligent, enjoying music and writing books. One of Henry's constant obsessions was his desire to continue his dynasty through a male heir and it was this obsession that would colour many of his romantic relationships.

1509-1542

THE FIRST FIVE

Henry's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, initially fell out of favour with the king due to her inability to provide him with a male heir. After 23 years of marriage, Henry ushered in the Reformation in order to marry Anne Boleyn. However, Henry soon became bored with Anne after she too did not give birth to a son, and following claims she plotted to remove a mistress from court, she was beheaded. Henry annulled the marriage two days before the execution, but the exact legal prefix remains a mystery. Jane Seymour was able to provide the king with the heir which he so desired, but died shortly afterwards from complications. Anne of Cleves was a short-lived marriage that lasted only sixth months before accepting a divorce. Henry's final wife before Katherine Parr was another Catherine, Catherine Howard. Only 19, rumours of infidelity would lead to her execution.

Image source: wiki / Luminarium

1543-1547

AUTHOR AND RENAISSANCE WOMAN

Parr, as well as authoring *Prayers And Meditation* and *The Lamentation Of A Sinner*, had a keen interest in the nascent publishing industry. An interest in advancing book binding and printing shared with her brother William Parr helped lead to numerous developments in this sector. She also took a keen interest in the careers of religious authors such as Edward Whitchurch, helping to promote them using her influence as queen. Her love of painting, and in particular a passion for portraiture, left behind numerous examples and popularised the miniature format.

according to the tenets of the Protestant Reformation but according to the reform touted by the prince of the humanists, Desiderius Erasmus. Many historians attribute the primary impetus of the English Reformation to Erasmus, rather than to Luther or Calvin. The Erasmian reform entailed ridding the church of meaningless superstitions, dead formalism, indulgences, the corruption of the monasteries and installing a religion where the common people could read and study the *Bible* and follow the 'Philosophy of Jesus'. This defined the piety of Parr evidenced in her daily *Bible* studies with her attendants and in her works *Psalms Or Prayers*, published anonymously, and *Prayers Or Meditations*, the first book published in England by a woman under her own name with the blessing of her husband. Both works reflected traditional Roman Catholic theology. Parr also directed the translation into English of the biblical *Paraphrases Of Erasmus*.

Everything changed for her when, probably in early 1546, she embraced Martin Luther's discovery of justification by faith, the sine qua non of the Protestant Reformation. Henry vehemently opposed this teaching of Luther since it ascribed salvation to faith in the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ alone and gave no place to good works as being meritorious for salvation. It was a heretical teaching and those who embraced it could be burned at the stake. Yet, Parr was bold to discuss her new-found faith with her husband. Bishop Stephen Gardiner, who had previously praised Henry's choice of Parr as his new wife, now brought charges of heresy against her and convinced Henry to sign an arrest warrant. Learning of this warrant for her arrest, Parr pleaded her case before her husband and the warrant was never served, and her life was spared.

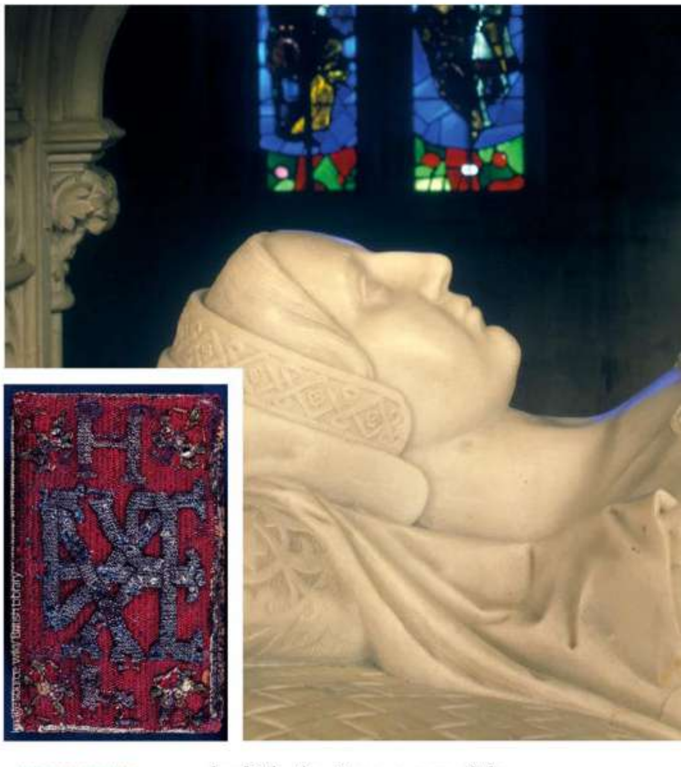
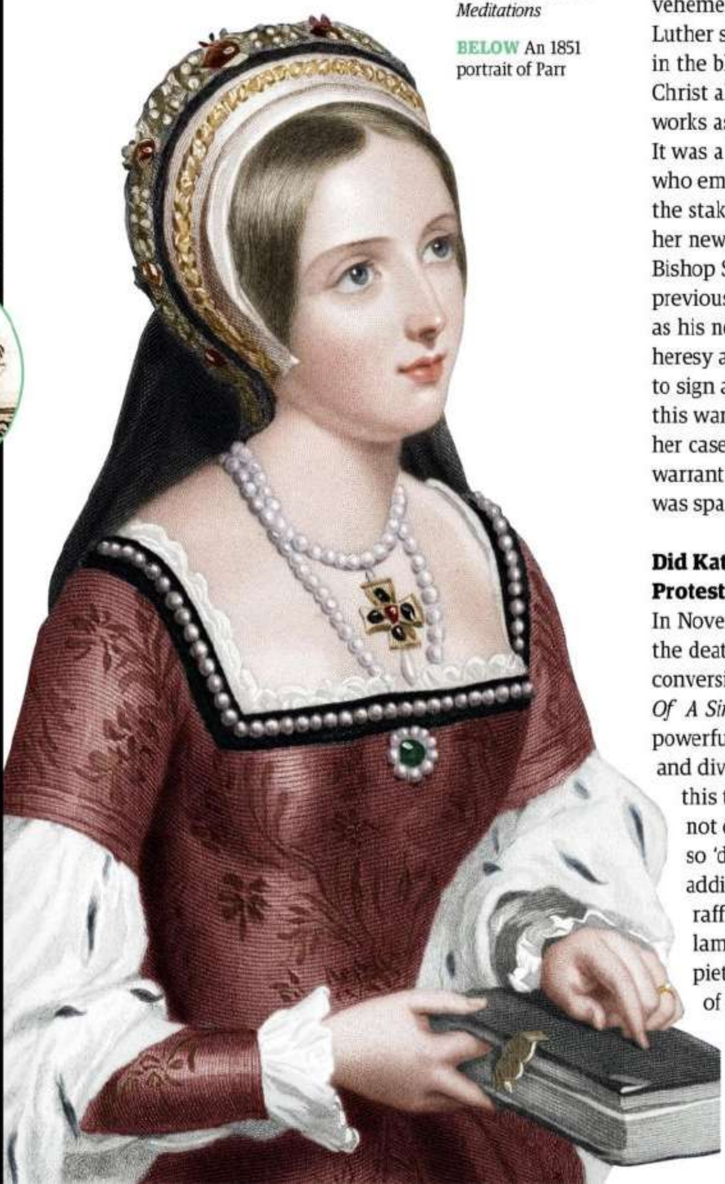


Image source: wiki / British library

ABOVE-INSET Back cover of Parr's *Prayers And Meditations*

BELOW An 1851 portrait of Parr



Did Katherine Parr impact the Protestant Reformation?

In November of 1547, nine months after the death of Henry, she published her conversion narrative, *The Lamentation Of A Sinner*. It was an extremely powerful expression of human sin and divine grace, yet the impact of this treatise was minimal. It was not deemed proper for a queen to so 'debase' herself as Parr did. In addition to rejecting the Papal 'riff-raff' of the traditionalists, she also lampooned the popular Erasmian piety of the day. Under the reign of Roman Catholic Queen Mary, the treatise was banished.

© Alamy

After Elizabeth became queen in 1558, the treatise was republished for the last time in 1562 and after that lapsed into obscurity. Alternatively, Parr's Erasmian *Prayers Or Meditations* went through a total of 13 printings. There is no evidence that later reform movements such as the Puritans, the Wesleys or William Wilberforce were familiar with *The Lamentation Of A Sinner*. Probably few clerics today within the Church of England have read the personal conversion narrative of one of their former queens. *The Lamentation Of A Sinner* has the potential to produce a reformation in the lives of those who read and take to heart the words of Parr.

What is her legacy?

Some consider Parr the greatest queen consort in English history. More has been written about her in the past 25 years than in the previous 400. She reigned as queen regent over a powerful group of men. She was the first woman published in England under her own name. She brought together King Henry's dysfunctional family and influenced Henry to include Mary and Elizabeth in the line of succession. Yet, in my opinion, her greatest legacy remains *The Lamentation Of A Sinner*.

What if Henry had not married Katherine Parr?

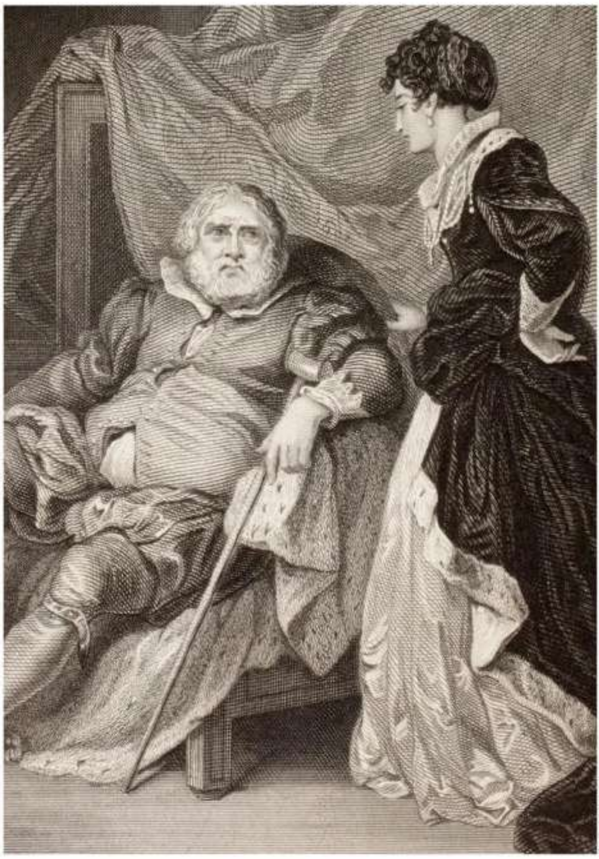
She influenced Henry to include both daughters Mary and Elizabeth, formerly regarded as illegitimate, in the line of succession. Parliament passed the Third Succession Act in 1543, which was the first time women were officially included in the succession to the British crown. In the minds of both Henry and parliament, the possibility of Mary and Elizabeth ever ascending to the throne was remote since they assumed that Edward, Henry's son and heir, would marry and have children of his own. But as fate would have it, Edward died at the age of 15, and after the debacle with Lady Jane Grey, Mary became queen. If Mary and Elizabeth weren't in the line of succession, the death of Edward would have marked the end of the Tudor dynasty, potentially leading to the commencement of a civil war and eliminating the great Elizabethan era in English history.

What if the *The Lamentation Of A Sinner* had not been written?

This question can only be answered, not from the perspective of past history, but from the perspective of present reality. I self-published this little treatise in 2017 and have been amazed by the interest. Lives have been affected by the words of Parr. A wider circulation of this treatise in my forthcoming book might have even a greater impact. So the answer to the 'What if...' question is yet to be determined.

ABOVE Parr's tomb in Sudeley Castle Chapel, Gloucestershire

BELOW An illustration of Henry VIII and Parr



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THE POSSIBILITY

1545

THE SEVENTH WIFE?

While the evidence is slight and inconclusive, there are rumours that at one point Henry VIII became interested in making Catherine Willoughby his seventh wife. Willoughby was an English noblewoman born in 1519 and an outspoken supporter of the Reformation. However, Willoughby is said to have been just as driven by her staunch Protestant beliefs as Parr and so if this was considered a good enough reason to replace her, Willoughby may seem an odd choice. However Henry and Willoughby were certainly familiar, although Parr appears to have been good friends with her.

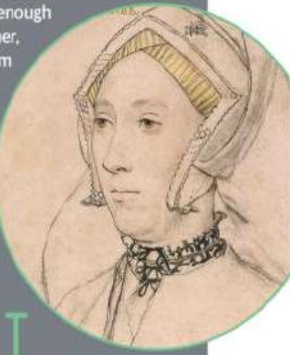


Image source: wiki/Royal Collection Trust

1553

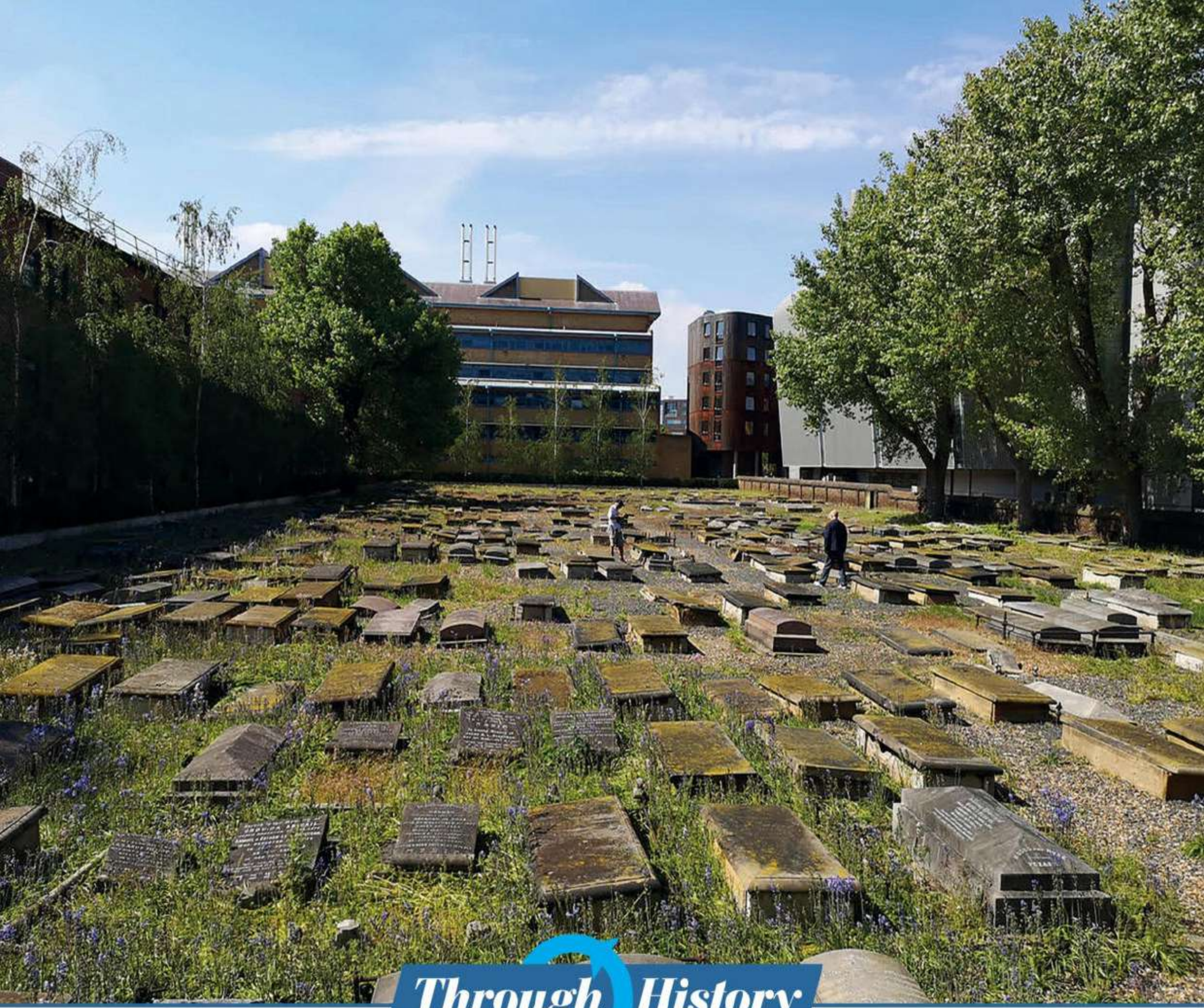
EDWARD VI: THE LOST KING

Crowned at age nine, Edward VI ruled only until he was 15 when he died tragically. Given his young age, his reign was dominated by nobles seeking to strengthen their own positions in the court. However, he himself was fiercely Protestant (having been the first king raised as such) and so it was in this period that *The Book Of Common Prayer* was introduced. As he lay stricken with tuberculosis, he accepted Lady Jane Grey as his heir. If Edward had not died, it is impossible to say what the changes to the throne could have been.

1543-1547

PATRON OF THE ARTS

As well as being interested in the arts, Parr acted as patron to a number of key figures in the English Renaissance. As queen, she maintained her own companies of players and the playwright Nicholas Udall (author of *Ralph Roister Doister*) contributed works. During her reign, the acquisition of royal lands and manors doubled from what it had been in 1535. To this end, it is intriguing to wonder how the arts may have been impacted had she not been queen.



Through History

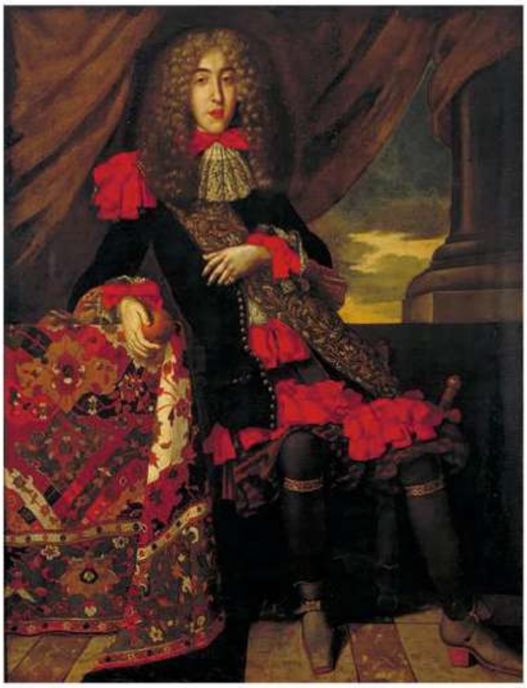
LOST JEWS OF ENGLAND

A new interactive history and art project explores the hidden history of England's Sephardi Jews

Images Courtesy of Pascal Theatre Company

Sephardim, also known as Sephardi Jews, have a long and deep history. A group of Jews with a specifically Spanish or Portuguese heritage, they settled initially in England before being expelled in 1290. However, in the 17th and 18th centuries they returned and created a rich history and culture, much of which is not taught or studied. Figures such as Daniel Mendoza, a Sephardi Jew who pioneered a more modern form of boxing, remains almost forgotten. However, now a new online project explores how three different waves of Jewish displacement influenced English life over successive centuries, from the period of Oliver Cromwell to 20th century immigrants arriving from the Balkans and the Arabian Peninsula.

One Lost Stone is a multimedia project bringing together elements of art, film, poetry, performance, stories, music and research to explore the culture of Sephardi Jews. The results are being showcased for free online and are available to use in classrooms or at home. Already the project has revealed a number of fascinating and little-known facts. For example, the ban on Jews introduced in 1290 has never formally been lifted; England was the first country to make Jews wear a yellow star as recognition; and the first female poet in English literature, Amelia Bassano Lanier, was a Jew. Here, we feature some of the visual highlights from this project and explore a few examples of the fascinating stories found within.

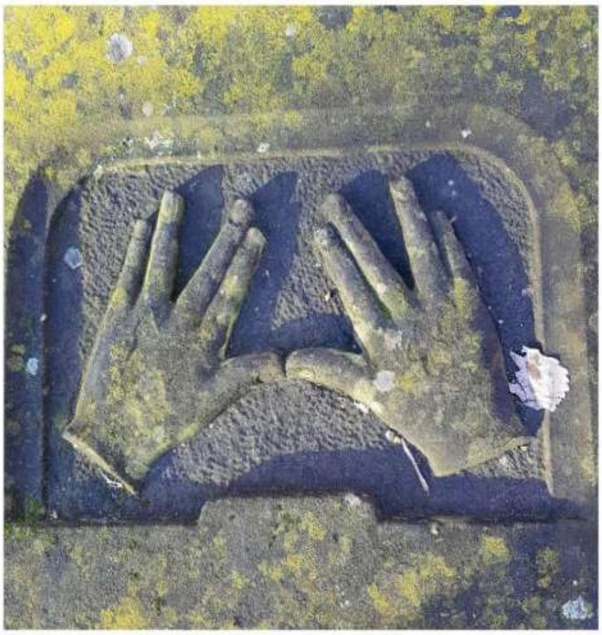


FRANCISCO LOPES SUASSO

An extremely wealthy Dutch Sephardi merchant, Francisco Lopes Suasso played an integral role in the funding of William of Orange's taking of the English throne. Crucially, Suasso financed much of the Dutch invasion armada. He is depicted here in typically lavish dress.

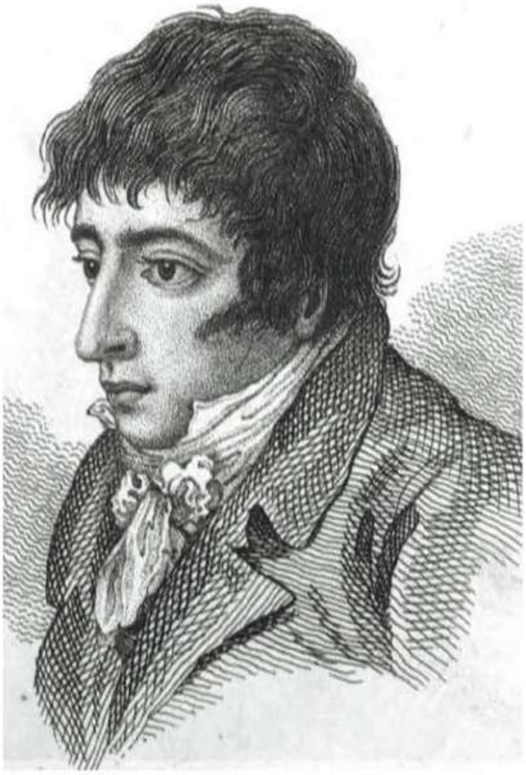
THE COHEN HANDS

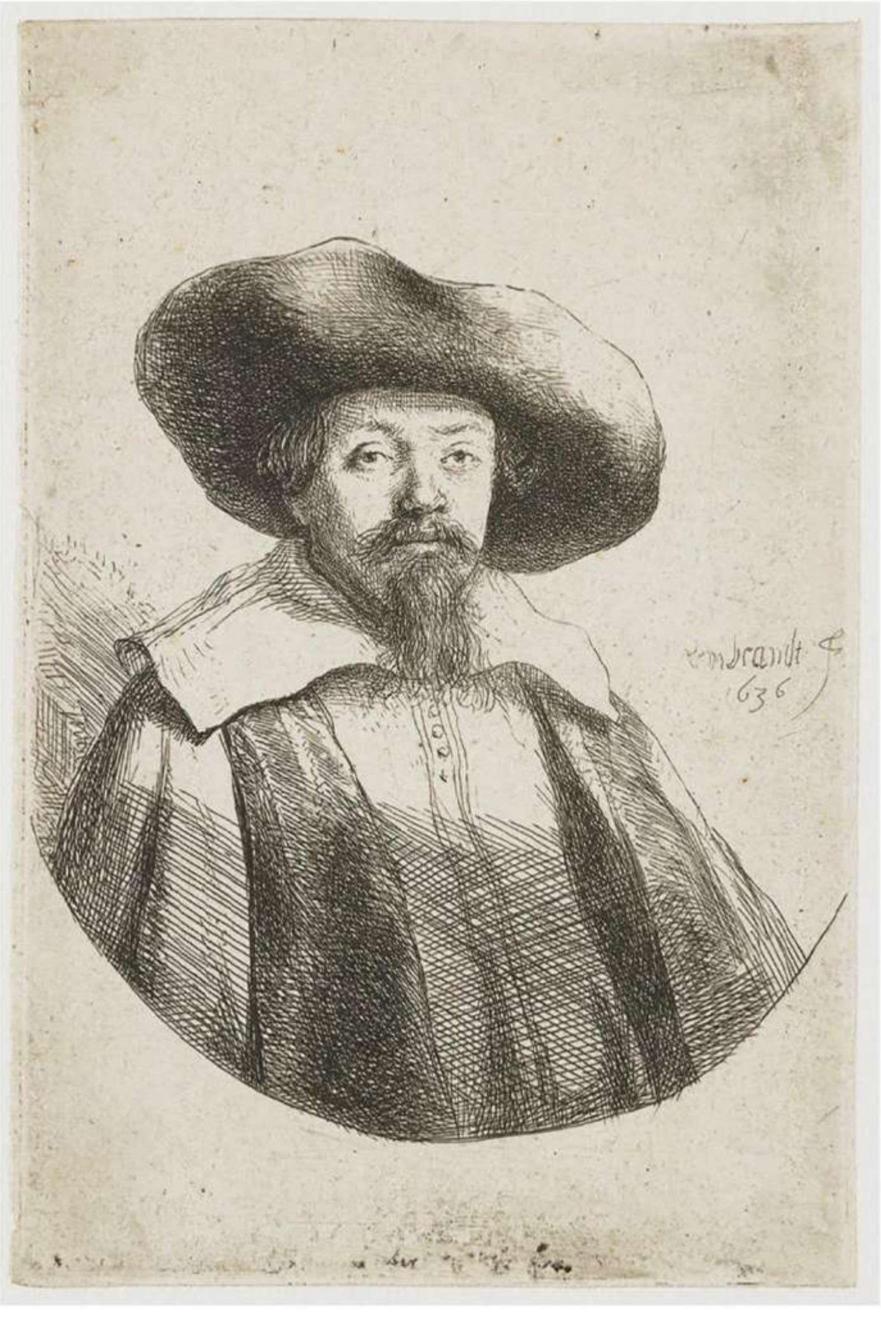
Cohen (sometimes referred to as kohen and pluralised as kohanim) are said to be direct male descendants of Aaron, and are Jewish priests. This symbol on a grave identifies the individual to have been a cohen.



DANIEL MENDOZA

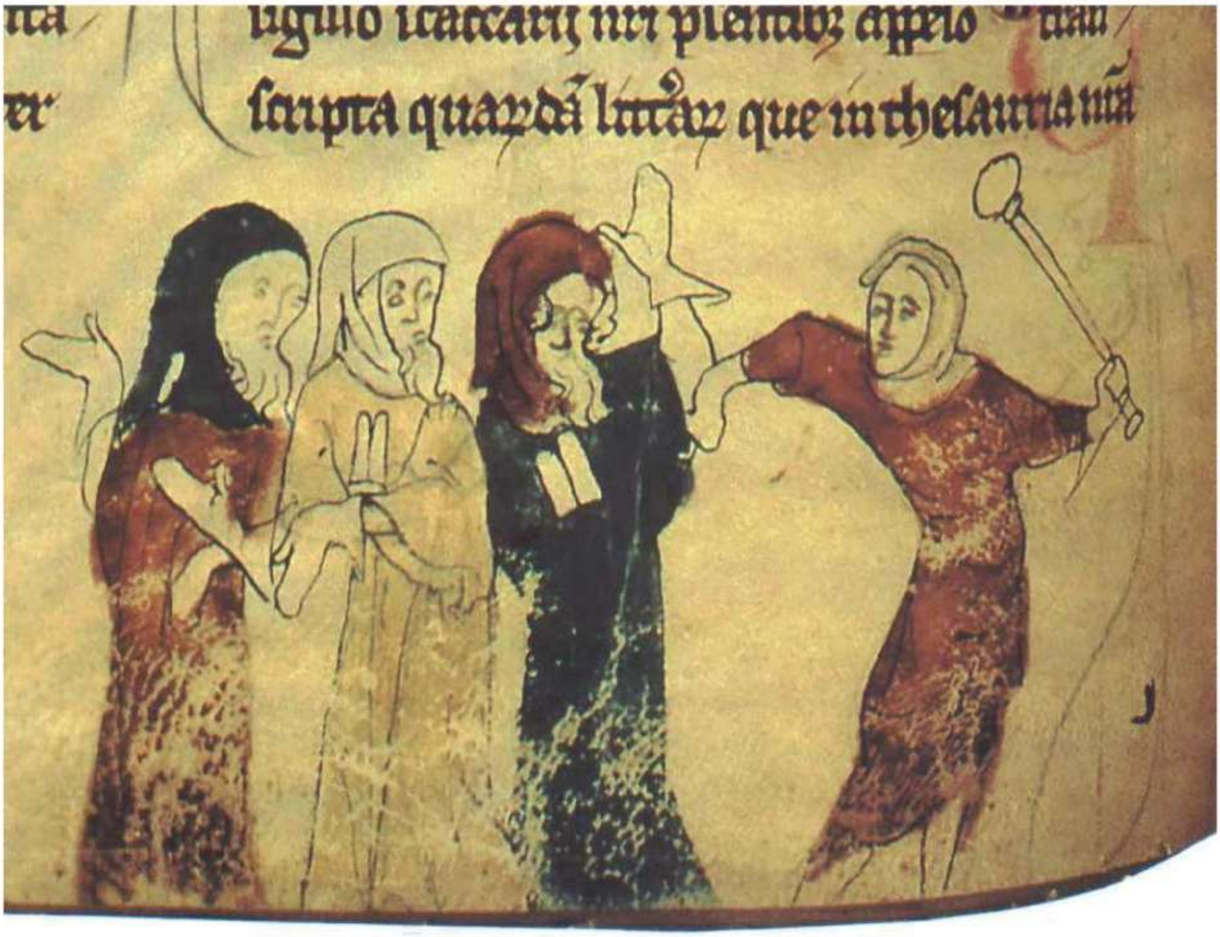
Daniel Mendoza (1764-1836) was the 16th champion of the London Prize Ring and reigned from 1791-1795. Considered the father of 'scientific boxing', he developed the style that focused on skill rather than pure strength. Mendoza continued fighting until the ripe old age of 57.





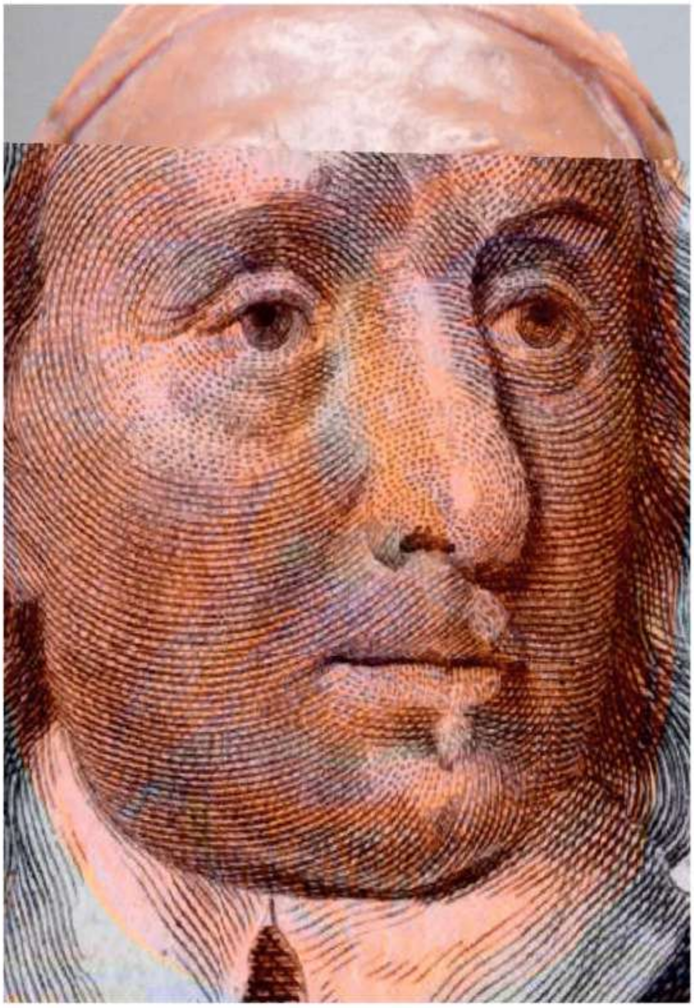
MENASSEH BEN ISRAEL

Following their 1290 expulsion, there was no open Jewish community in England until 1656. Menasseh ben Israel petitioned Oliver Cromwell to end the Jews' exile. This portrait of Rabbi Menasseh is by Rembrandt.



EXPULSION OF THE JEWS

A medieval manuscript showing the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290, as a result of local representatives demanding measures be taken to curb Jewish lending. Shown here is the symbol of two tablets, which Jews were required to wear in order to identify them.

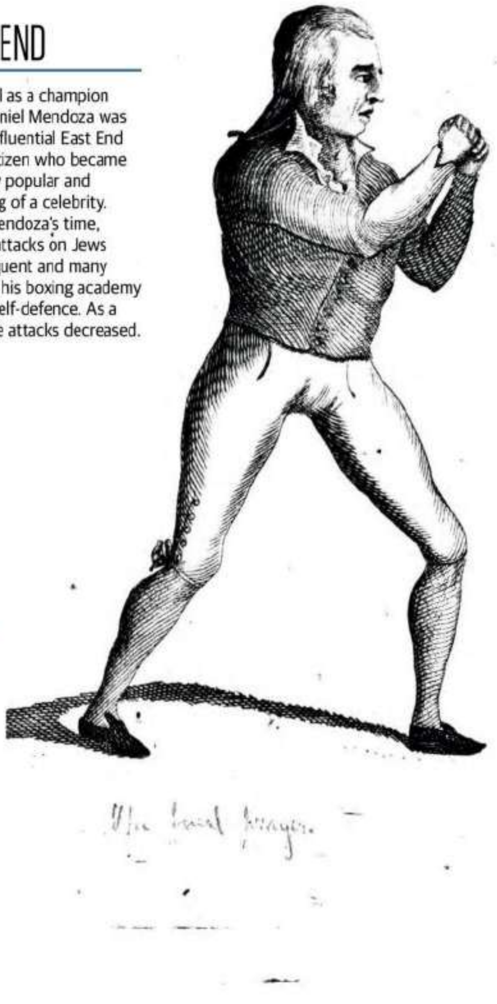


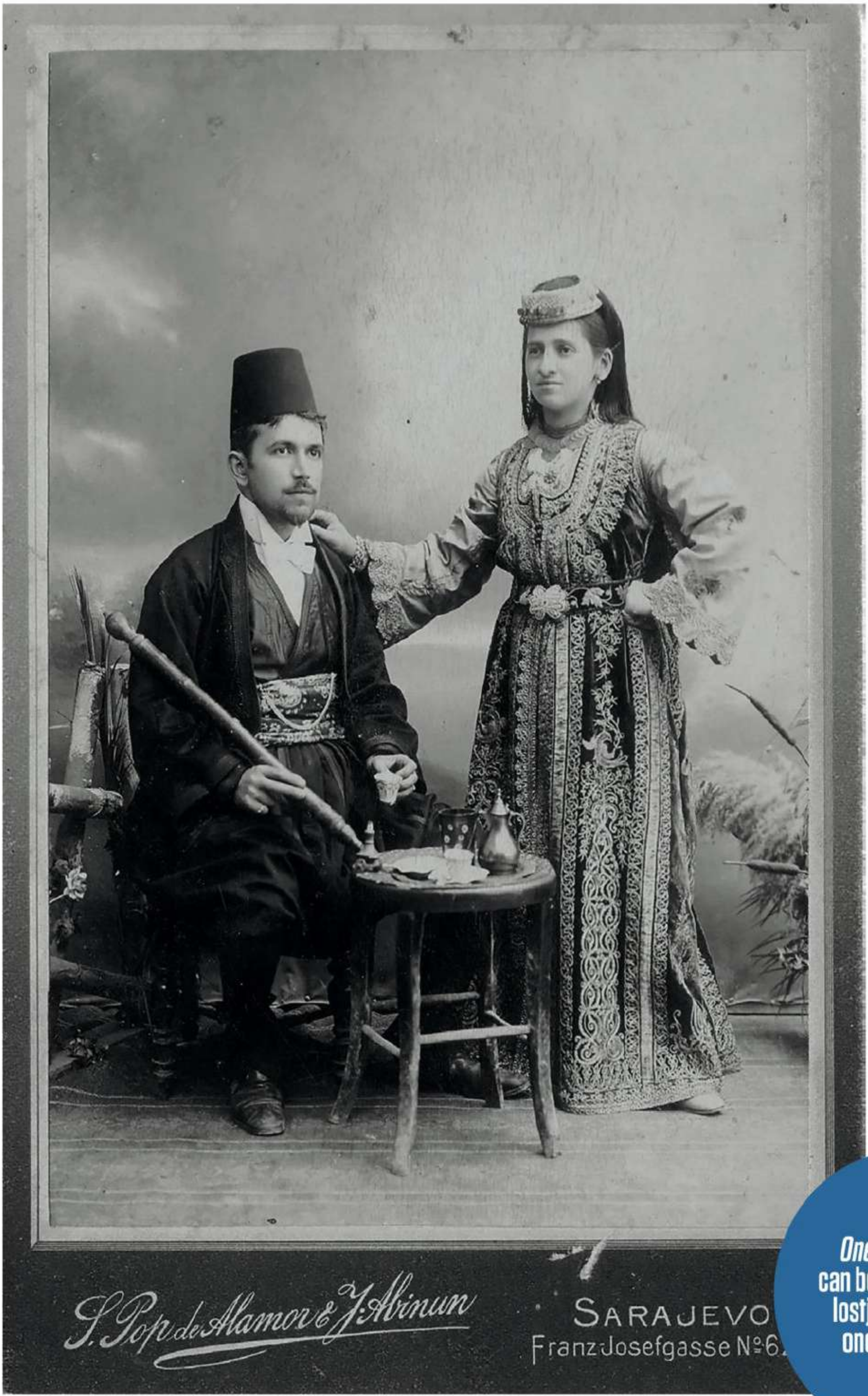
OLIVER CROMWELL

This collage, created by *One Lost Stone* director Thomas Kampe, shows Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell, who allowed Jews in England to 'meet privately in their houses for prayer' and to lease land for a cemetery. As a result Velho Cemetery was created in 1657, and in 1726 a further lease would be granted for Nuevo Cemetery.

EAST END

As well as a champion boxer, Daniel Mendoza was also an influential East End Jewish citizen who became incredibly popular and something of a celebrity. During Mendoza's time, physical attacks on Jews were frequent and many attended his boxing academy to learn self-defence. As a result, the attacks decreased.




S. Pop de Alamov & J. Abinun
SARAJEVO
Franz-Josefgasse №6

SEPHARDI COUPLE FROM SARAJEVO

This photograph from 1900 shows a Sephardi couple from Sarajevo in traditional costume. The city had a thriving Jewish community, with some 8,500 living there by the 1930s. The majority of them were murdered during the Holocaust.

One Lost Stone **can be visited here: lostjews.org.uk/onelostStone/**

REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY
ANTI-ERA
NO ERA

© Alamy

MRS AMERICA

An entertaining and sometimes uncomfortable retelling of a pivotal era in US politics

Certificate: 15 **Creator:** Dahvi Waller **Distributor:** BBC/FX **Cast:** Cate Blanchett, Rose Byrne, Uzo Aduba **Released:** Out now

There's so much packed into *Mrs America* that you could probably make nine seasons out of its scant nine episodes. Having said that, the rollercoaster ride that the show takes you on might be proof enough that dragging this tale across such a stretch could be more than we could bear.

The show follows the debate around the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment by the United States Congress in 1971 through the ensuing battle between the women's liberation movement and the Anti-ERA movement lead by Phyllis Schlafly (Blanchett). The cast is packed with fantastic actors playing iconic figures from the era like Gloria Steinem (Byrne), Shirley Chisholm (Aduba), Betty Friedan (Tracey Ullman) and Bella Abzug (Margo Martindale). Each episode shines a spotlight on one or a handful of figures at a time, showcasing their particular struggles and victories at key moments, but Schlafly is the ever-present figure.

History has ended up placing Schlafly on the wrong side of many of these debates and while she could easily have been made a cartoon villain in this show, Blanchett's performance gives her a humanity and dimensionality that allows us to understand her even if we fail to empathise with her. The playbook of wording and argument that she develops over the course of the show has a lot of parallels to the kind of political rhetoric that is all too common in today's society. *Mrs America* is clearly making the throughline of this debate into the modern polarisation of politics.

What it also reveals is that many of the battles fought in American politics and elsewhere today are very similar to those that were being fought nearly 50 years ago. The women trying to push through the ratification of the ERA (which is still being fought for to this day) struggle to unify behind common goals and methods, splintering in the face of pressure and struggling to represent the entirety and variety of their different lived experiences. For Schlafly and the anti-ERA group, they are faced with integrating voices far more extreme than their own in order to show a united front, sometimes having to cast aside core values to secure hegemony.

If there's a common thread that runs through *Mrs America*, binding both the pro- and anti-ERA movements, it's that the pursuit of political power and influence is grubby and those who prove they have the stomach for it often have to leave their morals and ethics behind them. Schlafly comes across as an extremely capable, quick-witted and driven person, sometimes even quite charming, but she has a sharp and cold steeliness too that harms some of those around her when she doesn't intend it. While she reluctantly gets into the mud she seems to thrive there while her opponents come out the other side feeling tainted.

A key episode that looks at the presidential run of Shirley Chisholm is a particular highlight of the series, and the overall look and feel of 1970s America is superbly done. Show runner Dahvi Waller previously did some writing on *Mad Men* and the comparison in terms of recreating the style and atmosphere of a previous era seems apt. ***JG***

★★★★☆

Reviews by
Callum McKelvie, Jessica Leggett, Jonathan Gordon

THE SECRET STRUGGLE FOR COLD WAR DOMINANCE

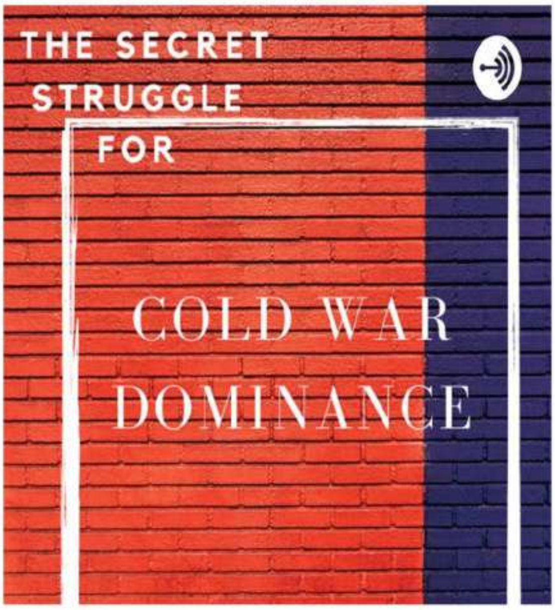
A new podcast on the Cold War in the Global South

Authors Katarina Urban Richterova, Dr Daniela Richterova
Publisher Institute Of Advanced Study at the University Of Warwick

In recent years, former Eastern Bloc territories have released a flood of previously classified documents relating to the Cold War. As a result, historians have been able to piece together a new narrative that exposes a surprisingly 'hot' side of the Cold War in the Global south. This podcast, by Dr Daniela Richterova and her sister Katarina Urban Richterova, explores recently discovered stories relating to this topic.

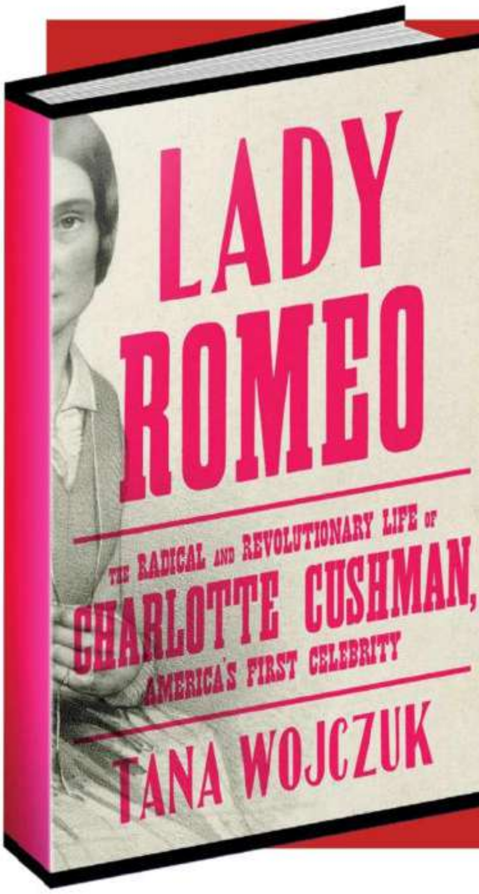
Composed of interviews with a number of historians, *The Secret Struggle* frames itself around a special issue of *The International History Review*. Using this issue as its base, its discussions are far less academic in tone than one would perhaps expect from a series centred around journal articles. Indeed, the podcast has a lovely relaxed quality and is an incredibly easy listen. At only 25 minutes per episode one could be forgiven for assuming they might feel rushed, but the pace gives enough time to tell a narrative without overwhelming a less versed listener.

Yet despite this relaxed and less academic tone, one of the podcast's most enjoyable aspects is its interest in the work of the historian and the very real excitement of both the guests and hosts when discussing previously secret documents. Numerous historical podcasts run with the gimmick of presenting their audience with previously forgotten or unknown stories; here, it's geniune and we were enthralled with the life stories of individuals such as Dennis Phombeah, who worked for a variety of intelligence agencies.



An excellent way to explore new aspects of this fascinating topic, *The Secret Struggle* is a must listen for spy fans and Cold War historians alike. ***CM***

★★★★☆


LADY
ROMEO
THE RADICAL AND REVOLUTIONARY LIFE OF
CHARLOTTE CUSHMAN,
AMERICA'S FIRST CELEBRITY
TANA WOJCZUK

LADY ROMEO

Delving into the life of an unconventional actress

Author Tana Wojczuk **Publisher** Simon & Schuster
Price £20 **Released** Out now

Who was Charlotte Cushman? Once a much-celebrated queer actress in both America and Europe, she has disappeared from popular memory and become another figure erased from history. However, author Tana Wojczuk is here to correct that with her new biography exploring Cushman's extraordinary life.

Becoming an actress at the age of 19, Cushman was known for being tall (5ft 7in) and was often described as 'mannish', with a strong body and wide shoulders. She used this to her advantage as she brought Shakespeare's plays to life, playing both female and male characters on stage, such as Lady Macbeth and Romeo.

A pioneering actress, Cushman had a dramatic life both on and off the stage, engaging in a series of tempestuous love affairs with other women. Although her lifestyle was unconventional for the 19th century, she was both influential and successful - even President Abraham Lincoln was one of her fans!

While Wojczuk brings Cushman's story to life, the book is fast-paced and there are moments where we just skip a few years ahead. Some deeper context about queer actors and actresses in the 19th century would have been nice to really bring that extra perspective to our understanding of Cushman's life and why she was a woman so ahead of her time.

Nevertheless, this biography still offers a good starting point for those who want to explore queer history and it leaves you wanting to learn even more about this fascinating woman. ***JL***

★★★★☆

NATIVE AMERICANS
Out now!

Native Americans
This fascinating specials takes you into the lives, customs and history of the native peoples of North America before, during and after the colonisation of the continent by European settlers. Packed with illustrations, maps and photographs, the book reveals the important figures and events in fantastic detail and was painstakingly researched from US archives and collections.

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HISTORY OF WAR RECOMMENDS...

BATTLE OF BRITAIN 1940
THE FINEST HOUR'S HUMAN COST
DILIP SARKAR
Out now!

Battle of Britain 1940

Author Dilip Sarkar
Price £30 **Publisher** Air World

He has selected 23 men and women from a range of nationalities and services who were killed during the Battle of Britain, and uses their lives and deaths to bring out the human dimension. Each chapter not only provides a well-researched biography of the individual(s), but also sheds light on their areas of work and personal viewpoints of the war. Overall, the author has used an impressive range of material to bring these stories to life.

EUROPE: A HISTORY

A not-quite-comprehensive, but impressive history of a continent

Author Norman Davies **Publisher** The Folio Society **Price** £150 **Released** Out now

When Norman Davies took on the daunting task of writing a comprehensive history of Europe in the late 1980s he likely couldn't foresee just how important his particular contribution to that well-trodden plain was going to be. Commissioned as the USSR was falling and finished as it had finally collapse and the European Union was being ratified, *Europe: A History* was a rare title that looked to bridge the gap between Western and Eastern European history.

The books cover topics from the earliest prehistory of Europe all the way through to 1991 and the fall of the Iron Curtain. Along the way we get chapters devoted to the Greeks, Romans and the Middle Ages in volume one alone. As must be expected from such a collection, each subject must be given only the broadest of considerations, but given the length of there books there is much that is included.

Of particular note structurally is what Davies calls his "snapshots" and "capsules" that break up the connected narrative with more in-depth looks at particular events of interest. The snapshots act as mini essays on topics that Davies finds particularly interesting about the chapter that precedes them, while the capsules offer a quick insight into a core concept. The book is peppered with them, helping to both break up the text and shine a spotlight on a subject or idea that might otherwise have been glossed over.

Davies' writing is highly accessible and not without flourishes of humour and enthusiasm, making this rather daunting box set quite an easy read. The prose is nowhere near as imposing as the rugged Folio binding might suggest.

While spread over three volumes, *Europe* is also a uniquely personal journey through history. Despite its length, it's nowhere near comprehensive enough to be used as a reliable reference book, but it's packed with intriguing insights and connective threads that paint a picture of history through the author's eye. As Davies himself writes in his original preface: "It is the view of one pair of eyes, filtered by one brain, and translated by one pen."

Even so, the book was not without its controversies upon its original release back in 1996 and it received some degree of criticism from other historians upon its debut (while also not holding back criticising others, it should be added). Lines of connection, which according to its author were intended only to instigate conversation, were interpreted by others as diminishing or suggesting equivalency between events. In the case of the bombing of Dresden and the Holocaust, this was particularly concerning. However, we're inclined to take the author at his word.

Ultimately, this is another gorgeous piece of printing from The Folio Society, featuring wonderful images and infographics for the reader to enjoy, plus a brand new preface and timeline that fills in the gap between 1991 and 2019, including topics such as Brexit and the rise of popularism. This is a robust and intriguing look at Europe as a historic, connected region. ***JG***

★★★★☆

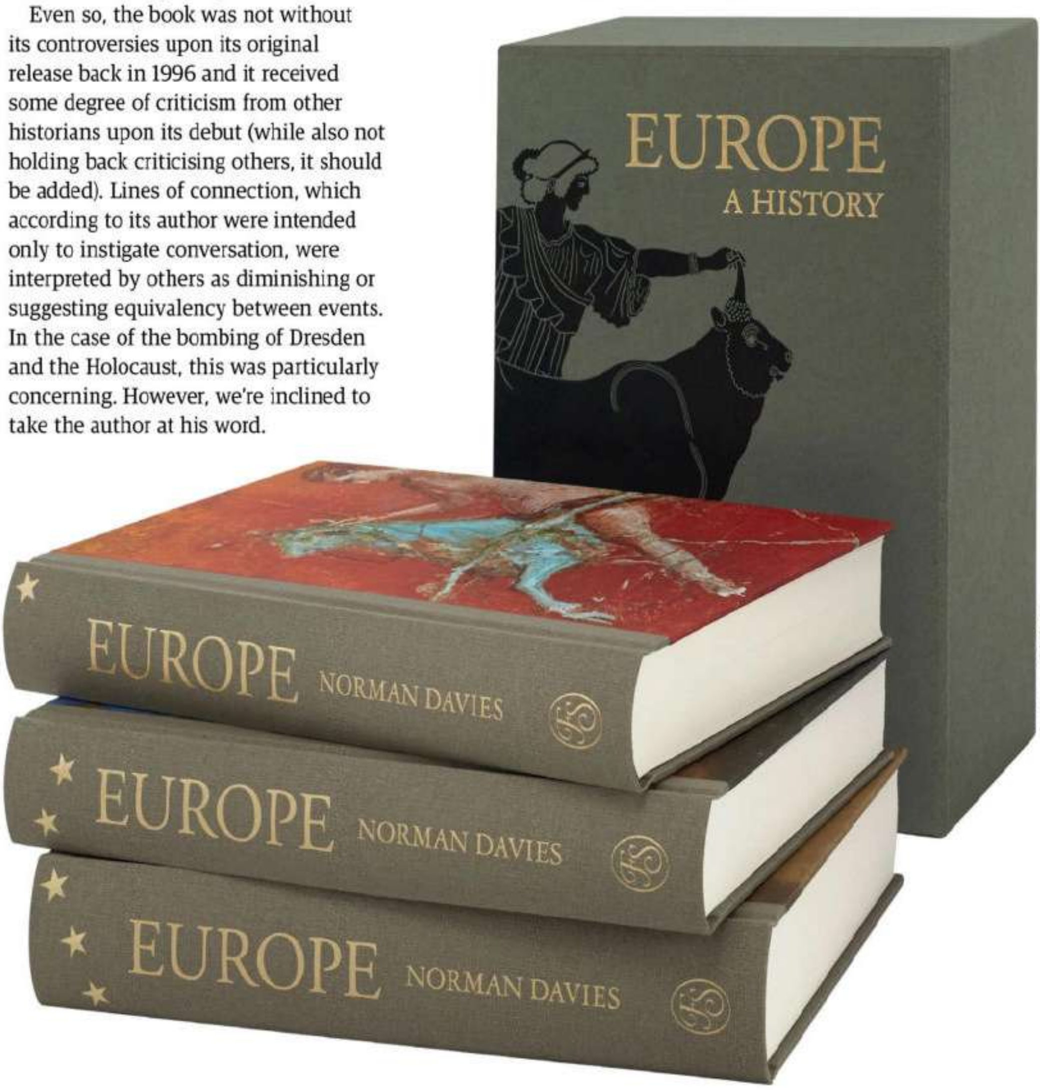
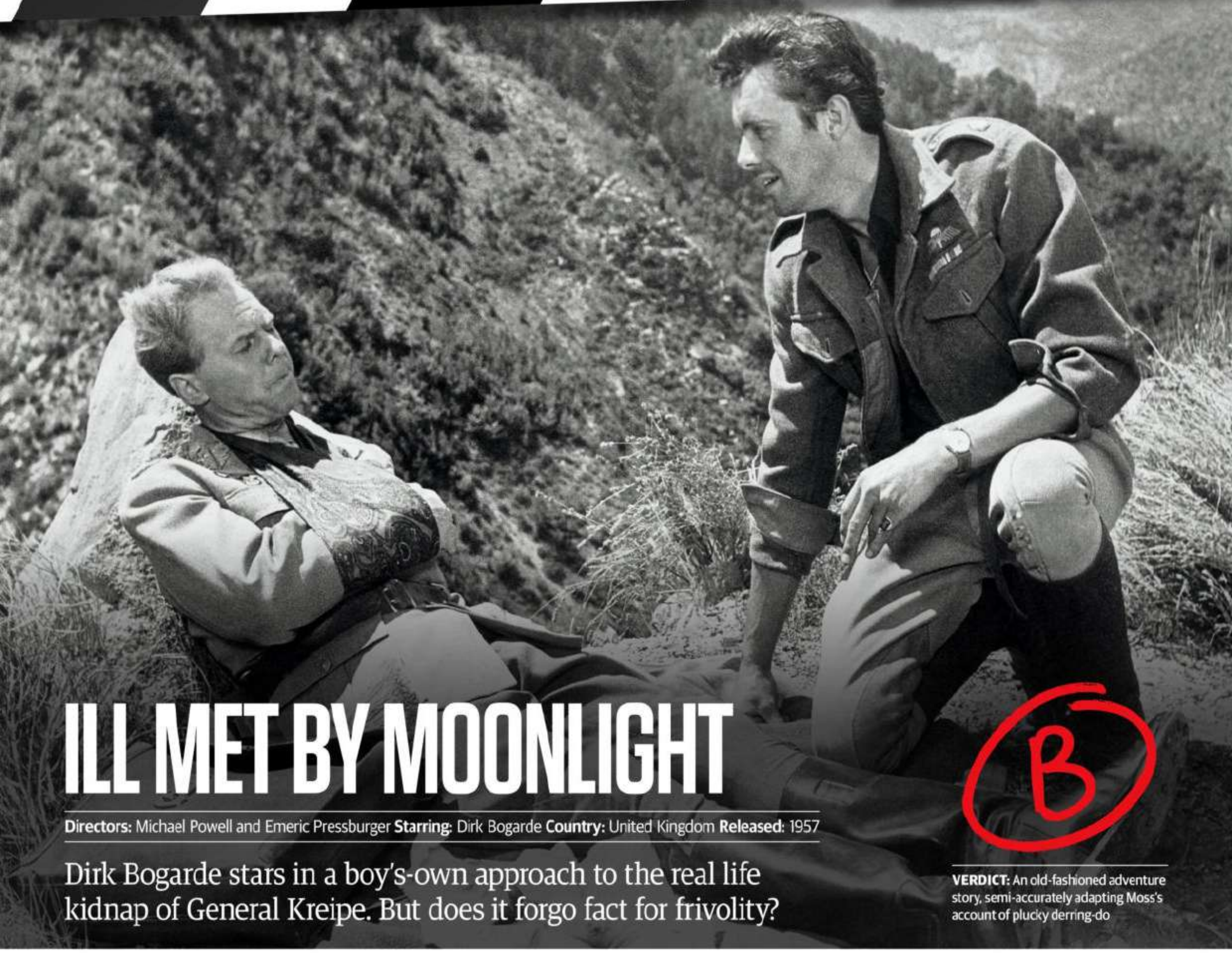


Image source Folio Society

HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen



ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT

B

Directors: Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger **Starring:** Dirk Bogarde **Country:** United Kingdom **Released:** 1957

Dirk Bogarde stars in a boy's-own approach to the real life kidnap of General Kreipe. But does it forgo fact for frivolity?

VERDICT: An old-fashioned adventure story, semi-accurately adapting Moss's account of plucky derring-do

01 Based on W Stanley Moss's memoir, the film follows Bogarde as Patrick Leigh Fermor, who leads a group of Cretan resistance fighters in kidnapping Nazi General Kreipe. The real Leigh Fermor described Bogarde as "the ghost of oneself 12 years ago".

02 In one of the film's few action sequences, Leigh Fermor lays his hands on a pair of German uniforms by killing two soldiers, one played by a young Christopher Lee. In actuality the uniforms were obtained from a tailor who mended Nazi uniforms.

03 The film features an unusual amount of comedy, but this tone is faithful to the book on which it's based. When writing the book, Moss used his original diary notes because he did not want to "lose the spirit of lightheartedness and 22-year-old exuberance".

04 In one sequence, the general's car is sped through some 22 checkpoints by Leigh Fermor in disguise while the real officer is held down on the back seat. This really occurred, no doubt aided by the general's impatience and habit of growling at sentries.

05 Despite taking place on Crete, the film was in fact shot in the Alpes-Maritimes due to the political situation at the time. Indeed, composer Mikis Theodorakis considered the cast and crew to be 'interlopers' and gave his salary to the Enosis revolutionary movement.

Main image: © Alamy
5x inset image source: Rank/Britbox

© Alamy

BOBOTIE

Ingredients

- 2 slices of white bread
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 large eggs
- 500g lamb or beef mince
- 25g sultanas (optional)
- 300ml milk
- 2 tbsp fruit chutney
- 2 tbsp oil
- 3 tsp medium curry powder
- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 tsp turmeric
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- 6 bay leaves

Did you know?

Bobotie is the national dish of South Africa

A CLASSIC OF SOUTH AFRICAN CUISINE, SOUTH AFRICA, 17TH CENTURY – PRESENT

The first known recipe for bobotie, a dish of mildly spiced mincemeat topped with baked egg, can be found in a Dutch cookbook that dates back to 1609. It's traditionally believed that it was introduced to the Cape Malay community in South Africa by the Dutch on their way back from Indonesia, as bobotie is similar to the Indonesian dish bobotok, but the true origins of bobotie are still disputed and there are many different theories. Interestingly, it's believed that the word bobotie possibly comes from the Malayan word boemboe, which means curry spices. Today, bobotie remains a favourite dish that's enjoyed in South African homes and we've chosen a simple recipe for you to recreate.

METHOD

01 Preheat your oven to 180°C. Cover the slices of bread with cold water and leave them to soak. Fry the onions in a pan for around 10 minutes or until they're soft, before adding in your mincemeat of choice.

02 Once the meat has browned, add the cloves, garlic, curry powder, turmeric, chutney, sultanas, two bay leaves and season with salt and pepper. Leave to simmer for five to ten minutes (add a tbsp of water if the mixture sticks to the pan).

03 Squeeze the excess water from the bread and add the bread into the meat mixture, mixing until all the ingredients are well combined.

04 Pour the mixture into an ovenproof dish and smooth the top before placing it in the oven to cook for 35-40 minutes.

05 Meanwhile, whisk the eggs and milk together. Remove the bobotie from the oven, pour the egg mixture over the meat and top with the remaining bay leaves. Return the dish to the oven and leave to bake for another 20 minutes.

06 Once the egg topping has set and become golden brown, remove the bobotie from the oven. Serve immediately alongside some yellow rice and vegetables.

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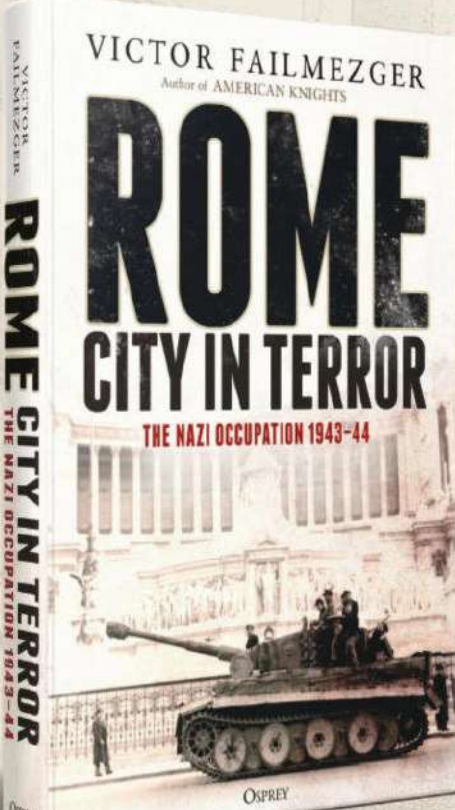

'Victor Failmezger retells the story of the harrowing days leading up to the Allied liberation of Rome in 1944... [and] vividly reveals that Rome was far from the quiet Open City it was purported to be.'

LEO BARRON
AUTHOR OF *Patton at the Battle of the Bulge*

In September 1943, following wave upon wave of Allied bombing, Italy announced an armistice with the Allies. Shortly afterwards, the German Army disarmed Italian forces and, despite military and partisan resistance, quickly overran Rome.

This is the compelling story of the Eternal City brought low, of the terror and hardship of the nine-month occupation, and of the disparate army of partisan fighters, international diplomats, Vatican priests, escaped Allied POWs and ordinary citizens who battled for the liberation of Rome.

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